

**COMMUNION HYMN #505** “*Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*”

**1 Be known to us in breaking bread,  
But do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread  
Thy table in our heart.**

**2 There sup with us in love divine;  
Thy body and Thy blood,  
That living bread, that heavenly wine,  
Be our immortal food.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER** (see insert)

**\*CLOSING HYMN #386** “*O for a World*”

1 O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,  
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

2 O for a world where good are shared and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

3 We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

5 O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*A Joyful Trumpet*

Patricia Lou Harris

*SHARON RITZMANN HAS PLACED FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND ROGER*

*THANK YOU TO SESSION FOR THIS MORNING’S COFFEE HOUR*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**MAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**10:30AM**



A SERVICE OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF

***The Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson as Pastor Emeritus***

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** The Rev. Kate Kelly

**INTRODUCTION OF MAY’S MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Heifer International

**PRELUDE**

*In The Garden.....*

*arr. by James Koerts*

Belinda Vair – Accompanist/Choir Director

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Joshua 24:1-3,14- 25)

Thomas Ruehle

We are pulled in many directions.

*Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.*

This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

*This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.*

Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

*Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. Amen.*

**\*HYMN #464** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (See Insert)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Invitation

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer:

Prayer : Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

*We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.*

*We love with condition. We judge and condemn.*

*We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.*

*We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.*

*Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.*

Assurance of God’s Grace

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Alleluia! Amen.*

**\*SUNG RESPONSE** Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**

**World without end, amen! Amen.**

**LITANY FOR CONFERRING PASTOR EMERITUS STATUS**

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Pastor Emeritus

Presentation of the Honor

Congregation’s Response

*We are each part of the one body in Christ, an expression and witness to God’s unlimited love for all people. Since we have been baptized into the body of Christ, we participate in Jesus’ ministry of reconciling love. We rejoice that this ministry is shared with our brother, Earl. We accept him now and in the future as Pastor Emeritus of this congregation. We pledge to Earl our ongoing Christian love and support. We offer our continued prayers and promise a steadfast unity in God’s Spirit. Together, we will seek to glorify God and serve Christ in a mission and ministry of love in this house of worship and throughout creation.*

Meaning of this Honor

Acceptance of this Honor

Prayer of Recognition

Declaration and Presentation

**ANTHEM** Hear Us O Father.....

D. Besig

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 24:14-15 (Pew Bible Page #216) Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 (Pew Bible Page #180)

**SERMON**

*You Are Christ’s Letter*

Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

