

## *Welcome to Harwich United Methodist Church*



**September 3, 2023**

### **GATHERING AND WELCOME**

#### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

##### **Prelude**

*Leader:* Welcome to our new worship series, "Come to the Table." ..... Let's stand in body or spirit and sing this simple theme song together as we prepare to answer the invitation to the banquet laid before us!

#### **"Come to the Table of Grace"**

**#3168**

**Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.**

**This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace!**

#### **Call to Worship: Taking Our Place, Opening to Others**

**L:** We know that there is a place for us at this table.

**P:** Our hearts are filled with gratitude!

**L:** We notice that there is a place for those not like us.

**P:** We come ready to open our hearts beyond their current size.

**L:** We humbly take our seat.

**P:** We look into each face and know the presence of Jesus!

**\*Opening Hymn**

**"Come, Share the Lord"**

**#2269**

**Opening Prayer:**

Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our trust in your eternal love. Enable us to be more effective in our witness to that love by word and deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Responsive Reading**

**Psalm 105**

**p. 828**

### **WE PROCLAIM**

**\*\*"As We Gather at Your Table" (vs. 1)**

**#2268**

**New Testament Scripture**

**Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:24-25**

**Sermon**

**"Hospitality 101"**

**Pastor Dianne**

### **WE RESPOND**

**Prayers of the People**

**Sung Response: "At This Table"**

At this table we lift our voices in prayer. At this table we seek your peace.

At this table we know you have drawn near. At this table we find release.

**Confession and Pardon**

God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We have faltered in our service to you. We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen; we condemn before we make any attempt to understand. Our lives are in turmoil and we confess that we have turned away from you. It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us and our actions

become based on those fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion. Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others who were rejected by "polite" society. Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope for those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope. Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

**Offertory**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**"Be Present at Our Table, Lord"**

**#621**

**Sung: Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.**

**This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.**

Leader: Friends, God is ever present with you!

People: **"And also with you!"**

Leader: Turn to the people around you and tell them this news: "The peace of Christ is always with you!"

People: **"The peace of Christ is always with you!"**

**Sung: Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.**

**This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.**

Leader: Listen! The body breathes in together... and out... So we lift up our hearts.

People: **"We lift them up to God!"**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Holy Living One ... repeating after me:

Holy, Holy, Holy God!

Everywhere we see your Glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

... and the widest...      ... and the deepest...      ... place in our hearts.

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

... and sat down at the table and ate with especially those others considered "unworthy."

People: **"The Lord is present with everyone."**

**Sung: Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.**

**This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.**

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread . . .

Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

**Sung: Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.**

**This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.**

Leader: Let us be a community of messengers, proclaiming and reminding each other and creation that:

**"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here . . . welcoming all to the family. I invite you to make a point of connection with those around you by laying a hand on a shoulder, holding hands, even simply extending your hands toward others, whatever is most comfortable for you. (pause)

By your spirit we are one with Christ . . . It is with great thanks that all God's people say, "Amen!"

**Sung: Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.**

**This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy!**

### **Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

As we have been shown the hospitality of Jesus, may we take on the mantle of hospitality in our own lives, eating and drinking and inviting others to the welcome table. We have been fed. We have been nourished. We have been transformed. It is with Great Thanks that we have come to this table. **Amen!**

### **WE GO FORTH**

**\*Closing Hymn      "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"      #614**

#### **\*Benediction**

. . . Let the people say, "Amen!"

**Amen!**

**\* "God Be With You"      from #672**

**God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,**

**\*with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.**

#### **\*Postlude**

**The flowers that grace our altar this morning are given by  
Carolyn Dickinson with loving thoughts of Lynn - you're missed a lot.**

**You are welcome here. No matter who you are. No matter what.**

**Ushers: John and Leslie Albee**

**Coffee hour: Carolyn Dickinson**

### **Lectionary for September 10, 2023**

**Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40;**

**Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20**

## Calendar

1/2 Price Sale continues at Thrift Shop through September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, September 6: UMW meets at 2pm

Sunday, September 10: Choir resumes with 9am rehearsal.

Sunday, September 17: Ad Board meets after worship

4 pm Potluck (open to the public)

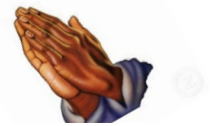
Monday, September 18: Thrift Shop Volunteers meet at 12:15pm

## Prayers

Grieving: Families and friends of Don and Darlene Ryan  
and Chie Young's grandfather; all who have lost loved ones  
and been displaced by fires, hurricanes and other disasters

Hospice: David Thyng

The effects of climate change world-wide  
Brian Mielke and others seeking employment



Healing: Judy Thomas, Don Gould, Sr., Ruth Zeller, Joan Felahi, Gloria Brown, Linda  
Todenhagen, Sloan Gambardella, Chris Shaper, Sheila Johnson,  
Irene Van Norden, Dianne Bennett

Continued Prayers: Dan Murphy, Don Howell, Al Thompson, Donald Turcotte, Kenny  
Souza, Joan Stevens, Nancy McIntyre, Pauline Doliber, Michael Chatham, Greg  
Legeyt and Karen Daffinee

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Marisha Dubiel, Music Director