

**Communion** **All Clergy Presiding**

Please see the insert for the responsive Communion Litany.

*You will receive instructions when it is time to receive the bread and the cup. ALL are welcome to receive communion today, no rules or exceptions.*

**The Peace**

*Those gathered are invited to share a sign of peace. As we have encountered the God of Peace, let us share a sign of peace with those around you.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Please use the language of your tradition.*

**Receiving Communion**

*Communion is shared with ALL.*

**Hymn During Communion**

***"All Who Hunger Gather Gladly"***  
See Insert

**Communion Prayer**

**Rev. Fenton-Jones**

O Brother Jesus, we have been guests at your table;  
come with us wherever we go and be present in all we share.  
**Summon out in us, whom you have fed,  
generosity of spirit to ensure that all the hungry are  
nourished and earth's barren places are fertile with food,  
faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

**Announcements & Church Square Teams**

**\*Closing Hymn**

***"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"***  
See back of bulletin

**\*Benediction**

**Rev. Dr. Howard Pippin**

**Postlude**

**Benjamin Knight**

**Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1981)  
Music: John Zundel (1870)  
©1981 Jane Parker Huber

Called as partners in Christ's service  
Called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace  
May we learn the art of sharing  
Side by side and friend with friend  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfil God's chosen end

Christ's example Christ's inspiring  
Christ's clear call to work and worth  
Let us follow never faltering  
Reconciling folk on earth  
Men and women richer poorer  
All God's people young and old  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission  
In a small or global sense  
Help us bear each other's burdens  
Breaking down each wall or fence  
Words of comfort words of vision  
Words of challenge said with care  
Bring new power and strength for action  
Make us colleagues free and fair

So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife  
Make us partners in our living  
Our compassion to increase  
Messengers of faith thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace



**Pre-worship Music**

**Benjamin Knight**  
*Keyboard, Pilgrim UCC*

**Welcome/Clergy Introduction**

**Rev. Priebe**  
**Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones**  
*First Christian Church DOC/UCC & Pilgrim UCC*  
**Rev. Jon Priebe & Rev. Dr. Howard Pippin**  
*First United Methodist Church*  
**The Rev. Alan Cowart & Deacon Al Muller**  
*St. John's Episcopal Church*  
**Rev. James Steingass**  
*St. Luke's Lutheran Church ELCA*  
**The Rev. Canon Jesse Dodson**  
*The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio*

**\*Call to Worship**

*\*indicates please stand as you are able*

One: The world belongs to God,  
**All: the earth and all its people.**  
One: How good it is, how wonderful  
**All: to live together in unity.**  
One: Love and faith come together;  
**All: justice and peace join hands.**  
One: If Christ's disciples keep silent,  
**All: these stones would shout aloud.**  
One: Open our lips, O God,  
**All: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

## \*Opening Hymn

*"How Great Thou Art"*

See bulletin insert.

## Collect

One: God be with you

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. Amen.

## Hebrew Bible Reading

**Deacon Muller**  
**Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 NRSVUE**

## Children's Moment

**Rev. Priebe**

## Gospel Reading

**Rev. Pippin**  
**1 John 4: 7-12 NRSVUE**

## Sermon

*"God Is Love"*  
**Rev. Dr. Howard Pippin**

## Hymn of Response

*"How Can I Keep from Singing"*

See insert



### ATTENDANCE

Thank you for attending our shared worship time today. Information collected will be given to your home church so that we can all keep accurate records.

Thank you!

## Prayers of the People

**Rev. Steingass**

Together let us pray

We hold before God: those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do. Show us your mercy.

**Teach us to be merciful.**

We hold before God: those who have difficult tasks to do and to face, and who fear they may fail in them; those who have difficult temptations to face, and who know only too well that they may fall to them if they try to meet them alone Show us your mercy.

**Teach us to be merciful.**

We hold before God: those who know that they can be their own worst enemies. Show us your mercy.

**Teach us to be merciful.**

We hold before God: those who have difficult people to work with; those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work. Show us your mercy.

**Teach us to be merciful.**

We hold before God: those who are sad because someone they love has died; and any who are disappointed in something for which they hoped very much. Show us your mercy.

**Teach us to be merciful.**

We hold before God: our own faith communities, those places and people which give us strength and comfort, that we may continually give ourselves to one another, and that as we discover God in the lives of those around us, we might more clearly bear God's image into the world. Show us your mercy.

**Teach us to be merciful.**

## Invitation to Offering

**Rev. Fenton-Jones**

*Please be faithful in your giving to your home congregations.  
Today's shared special offering will go to  
The Akron Interfaith Council.  
See the box below for more information.*

## Offertory Music

*"I Stand Amazed in the Presence"*

**Kattie Priebe, First UMC**

## Prayer of Dedication

**Fr. Cowart**

**All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering. Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good. Amen.**

Our *Shared Offering* today goes to The Akron Interfaith Council to be used specifically for their support of vulnerable immigrant communities. We have baskets to collect cash and checks, or you can use the QR code below to make an online donation.



Scan the QR code to make an online donation.

*The Akron Area Interfaith Council exists to initiate, coordinate and enable effective interfaith responses to the social, moral, ethical and cultural issues of our community and to promote freedom of religion, equality and understanding.*

You may also mail a check to:  
Akron Area Interfaith Council  
3300 Morewood Road  
Akron, OH 44333

The Akron Interfaith Council is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization

## Communion Litany

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

For you, Creator God,  
the valleys laugh and sing  
and the trees of the field clap their hands.  
Your earth summons us to break silence  
and be one with the song of creation.

**We give you thanks and praise.**

For you, God of all,  
the church in its myriad forms  
and countless languages honours its Saviour.  
Millions upon millions invite us  
to be one with them in the drama of worship.

**We give you thanks and praise.**

In heaven, beyond our seeing,  
the angels and saints are caught up in song.  
And those we have loved and lost  
are part of that great company.  
They call us to be one with the harmony of heaven.

**We give you thanks and praise.**

So, gladly, we join our voices  
to those of earth, sea, and sky,  
in the universal hymn of praise  
which echoes through time and eternity.

**Holy, holy, holy God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes  
in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Come now, O Christ,  
bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh  
forever bound to us in promise and mystery;  
breathe your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine.  
Let them become, for us,  
the seal and sign of your love  
healing, redeeming, making us whole.

And through them let us together become, for you,  
your body,  
loving the world as God loves,  
serving its people as God wills  
and always being transformed  
until we and all humanity  
resemble the One whose food we now share.

*As Jesus broke bread, we break this bread.*

*As Jesus shared wine we share this cup.*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
give us your peace.**



## How Great Thou Art

Words & Music: Stuart K. Hine (1953)  
Based on a poem by: Carl Gustav Boberg (1885)  
© 1954, renewed 1981 Manna Music Inc.

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods  
and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain  
grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:  
*Refrain.*

And when I think that God, his Son not  
sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin:  
*Refrain.*

When Christ shall come with shouts of  
acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou  
art!  
*Refrain.*

## My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing)

Words & Music: Robert Lowry,

My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

*Refrain:*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?  
*Refrain.*

What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.  
*Refrain.*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?  
*Refrain.*

## All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1990)  
© 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music Source: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

All who hunger, gather gladly  
Holy manna is our bread  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring  
Here in truth we will be fed  
You that yearn for days of fullness  
All around us is our food  
Taste and see the grace eternal  
Taste and see that God is good

All who hunger, never strangers  
Seeker, be a welcome guest  
Come from restlessness and roaming  
Here in joy we keep the feast  
We that once were lost and scattered  
In communion's love have stood  
Taste and see the grace eternal  
Taste and see that God is good

All who hunger, sing together  
Jesus Christ is living bread  
Come from loneliness and longing  
Here in peace we have been fed  
Blest are those who from this table  
Live their days in gratitude  
Taste and see the grace eternal  
Taste and see that God is good