

**Giving**

Pastor Dave

**Blessing our Gifts with Music and Prayer**

Lay Reader

**Many Voices: God of Boundless Goodness, we are grateful to have this place, this space to worship you with our songs, our prayers, our words, and our gifts. All that we have and all that we are comes from you. Bless our offerings as we strive to live as your beloved children with our whole selves. Amen.**

**\*Singing**

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

TFWS #2190

**\*Sending Forth**

Pastor Dave

**Exiting Music**

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

**LEADERS IN TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE**

LAY READER

JENNIFER FERGUSON

SONG LEADERS

GAIL GIRARD, RUTH SATORIUS &  
SUSAN SPENCER

**CHURCH STAFF**

MINISTERS

ALL DISCIPLES OF JESUS

LEAD PASTOR

REV. DAVE BUERSTETTA

OFFICE MANAGER

KATIE WOJCIESZAK

MUSIC DIRECTOR

JILL KOHLER

SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

KATRINA NOLAN

OFFICE ASSISTANT

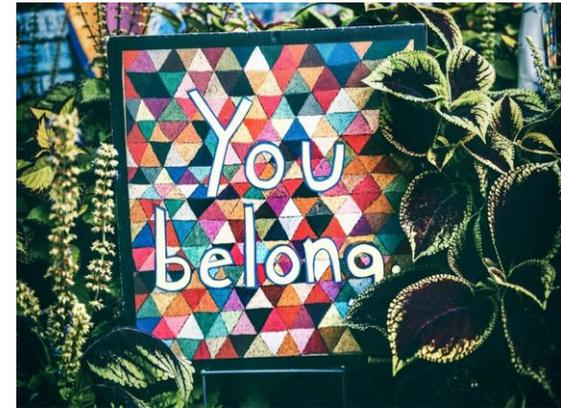
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Church**

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**Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church**

Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

9:30AM

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**Mark 12:28-34 (The Voice)**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes *who studied and copied the Hebrew Scriptures* overheard this conversation and was impressed by the way Jesus had answered.

**Scribe:** Tell me, Teacher. What is the most important thing that God commands *in the law*?

**Jesus:** <sup>29</sup> The most important commandment is this: “Hear, O Israel, the Eternal One is our God, and the Eternal One is the only God. <sup>30</sup> You should love the Eternal, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” <sup>31</sup> The second *great commandment* is this: “Love others in the same way you love yourself.” There are no commandments more important than these.

**Scribe:** <sup>32</sup> Teacher, You have spoken the truth. For there is one God and only one God, <sup>33</sup> and to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves are more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice *we could ever give*.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus heard that the man had spoken with wisdom.

**Jesus:** *Well said; if you understand that, then the kingdom of God is closer than you think.*

Nobody asked Jesus any more questions after that.

## Entering Music

**Welcoming** Pastor Dave

## Preparing

**\*Gathering** Lay Reader

Reader: May our time together today renew our hope.

**Many Voices: May the stories we share refresh our courage.**

Reader: May the songs we sing lift our spirits.

**Many Voice: May the words we speak invigorate us.**

Reader: Let us pray together:

**Many Voices; Loving God, in your presence we find no discrimination. You celebrate diversity. You are generous to all. You are gracious to all. So we gather knowing ourselves loved and valued. Amen.**

**\*Singing** "Welcome" Worship & Song #3152

## Conversing with Children

**Praying** Lay Reader

[Quiet reflection]

Reader: Author of Life, Mother of us all, you say to us, 'Love one another as unreservedly as I have loved you. 'We confess our lack of grace towards others and ourselves. Forgive us and teach us your better way.

We confess we fail to distinguish lasting truth from long-held tradition which may have outlived its time. Forgive us and teach us your better way.

We confess we are tempted to build barriers to keep the other out. Forgive us and teach us your better way. Prompt us instead to open our hearts to let you and others in.

Gracious and Wise One, you showed us in the human life of Jesus how much love costs and what it can achieve. Help us to let go of our hatred and fear and dare to live our lives in love.

[Quiet reflection]

Reader: Hear the good news: God *is* steadfast love. God forgives our sins and restores us to new life! Let us rejoice in God's mercy. Our prayer concludes as Jesus taught us, saying... [Lord's Prayer, UMH #894]

**\*Singing** "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" UMH #383

**Reading Scripture** Mark 12:28-34 (The Voice) Lay Reader  
Reader: May God add blessing to the reading, hearing, and living of these words.

**Many Voices: Amen**

**Proclaiming** "What Are We Doing Here?" Pastor Dave

**\*Singing** "For the Beauty of the Earth" UMH #92, v1-4

## Celebrating Communion

Pastor Dave: Here is the company of heaven, seen and unseen.

Here is the bread and wine to be broken and spilled. Here is Jesus the Christ, holy rebel and sacred friend. This is the belonging place.

**Many Voices: Here are the people of God, saint and sinner.**

**Here is the story of God, crucified and risen. This is the belonging place.**

Pastor Dave: Here is the table of life, open and free. Here is the grace of God, unconditional and without end. Here is the love of Jesus, given and given again. This is the belonging place.

**Many Voices: Whoever we are and aren't, whatever we believe and don't, we belong here - at this table.**

Pastor Dave: God of the Table, we live once more the story of that time and place when Jesus took bread and wine, and talked of betrayal and promise, of companionship and trust, of breaking and sharing, and of remembrance and renewal. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it, saying:

**Many Voices: "This bread is broken as my body will be broken. Eat and remember me."**

Pastor Dave: Later that night Jesus took the cup, blessed it and shared it, saying:

**Many Voices: "This cup is poured out as my blood will be poured out. Drink and remember me."**

Pastor Dave: May this bread nourish our capacity for compassion. May this cup strengthen our commitment to community. For this is the belonging place. Amen.

[The United Methodist Church offers open Communion. That means *all* are welcome at this table. Today we serve by intinction: lightly dip the piece of bread into the cup then eat. Self-contained packets of bread and juice are also available. All the bread is gluten free. Walk down the center aisle to receive; return via side aisles.]

## **Bring Forth the Kingdom**

### *Verse 1*

You are salt for the earth, O people:  
Salt for the Kingdom of God!  
Share the flavour of life, O people:  
Life in the Kingdom of God!

### *Refrain*

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
Bring forth the City of God!

### *Verse 2*

You are a light on the hill, O people:  
Light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
Shine for the Kingdom of God!  
(Refrain)

### *Verse 3*

You are a seed of the Word, O people:  
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
Grow in the Kingdom of God!  
(Refrain)

### *Verse 4*

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:  
Bound for the Kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland:  
Love is the Kingdom of God!

# **HYMNS**

## **Welcome**

### *Verse 1*

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin  
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,  
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

### *Refrain*

Singing welcome, welcome to this place  
You're invited to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.

### *Verse 2*

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,  
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,  
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray, (Refrain)

### *Refrain*

Singing welcome, welcome to this place  
You're invited to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.

### *Verse 3*

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,  
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,  
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice,  
(Refrain)

### *Refrain*

Crying welcome, welcome to this place  
You're invited to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.

## **This Is a Day of New Beginnings**

### *Verse 1*

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

### *Verse 2*

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.

### *Verse 3*

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

### *Verse 4*

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

### *Verse 5*

In faith we'll gather 'round the table  
To taste and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
Our God is making all things new.

CCLI Song # 231043

Brian Arthur Wren | Carlton Raymond Young

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## **For the Beauty of the Earth**

### *Verse 1*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

### *Verse 2*

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

### *Verse 3*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

### *Verse 4*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

CCLI Song # 43200

Folliot S. Pierpont, 1864 Conrad Kocher 1838; arr. By W. Ho. Mon, 1861

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