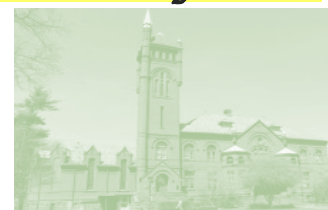


SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

September 20 and 23, 2023



*“So then, each of us will be accountable to God.” - Romans 14:12*



The Lemon Seller, Hans Thoma (1839-1924)

# Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG    BLESS THE LORD (TENGO SED DE TI)    TAIZE (SPANISH EDITION  
P.15)

GREETING

PRESIDER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Leader: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

**People: Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!**

Leader: Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

**People: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.**

Leader: Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

**All: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN

WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL

UMH 549 (v.1,3&4)

\*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

O God, We live in the midst of great and abiding love, but also in the midst of deceit and lies. May we be found faithful in all we do.

**May we speak the truth in love and live lives of love each day. Too often we seek you in the spectacular and otherworldly.**

May we see the many inbreakings of your kingdom in the everyday, ordinary things of life: in mustard seeds, yeast, treasures in fields, and fish gathered in nets.

**May we be able to answer with a full-throated yes when asked if we have understood your teachings and your call.**

(Silent Confession)

In all that we do, we are assured in this: that the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words and that no matter what, nothing, absolutely nothing can ever separate us from God's presence and God's love. Amen.

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor. Be mindful that some of our siblings may prefer non-contact ways of passing the peace, so kindly ask before hugging or shaking hands.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**  
Let us share this peace with one another.

*Service of the Word*

**POEM**

**THE FRUIT OF PRAYER**

**MOTHER THERESA**

Mother Theresa describes in this poem what fruit looks like for us.

The fruit of silence is prayer  
the fruit of prayer is faith  
the fruit of faith is love  
the fruit of love is service  
the fruit of service is peace.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

Creator of all things great and small, open our ears, our hearts, and minds, to understand your message, **Amen.**

(Spanish) Por favor, únase a mí en oración. Creador de todas las cosas grandes y pequeñas, abre nuestros oídos, nuestros corazones y mentes, para entender tu mensaje, **Amén.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**ROMANS 14:1-12**

**NRSV**

A reading from the Book of Romans, chapter 14, verses 1 through 12.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord.

Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR JONATHAN PAREDES**

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

Heavenly God, you gather us together in our faith journey trusting in you, we join one another as a community; a community of faith on a journey. We grow ever deeper in our faith, in our love, in our desire to long for you.

**Along the way, remind us of your Love, of your sacrifice for us, of your ever mindful presence. Let us never lose hope along the way. Help us to be strong, strong in faith, strong in love.**

Help us to be strong in our desire to be ever mindful of your presence. For it is in your strength and love and the graces you bestow upon us, that we can go out and share in your love and faith with all those in our community. It is in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, **AMEN.**

*Service of the Table*

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**INSTRUMENTAL**

## \*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Presider: God is with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us open our hearts.

**People: We open our hearts to God and one another.**

Presider: Let us give thanks.

**People: We thank God with joy.**

O God, Ancient of Days, Your love brought galaxies into being, summoned water and sky, earth and all creatures, and made us in your image. Through the ages You have cared for all You created. When we wandered, you called us to return to You. In the fullness of time, Jesus came to teach the Law of Love. He lived what He taught and loved His enemies and everyone he encountered. In wonder, we remember the life Jesus lived, laid down, and took up again for us.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal of bread and wine, so that we may be the communion of the body of Christ. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, so that we can live, conformed anew to Christ, who teaches us daily that loving God and neighbors is the fulfillment of the law.

El Señor Jesús, la noche que fue entregado, tomó pan y habiendo dado gracias, lo partió, y dijo, “Tomen, coman; esto es mi cuerpo que por ustedes es partido; hagan esto en memoria de mi.” Asimismo, tomó También la copa, después de haber cenado, diciendo: “Esta copa es el nuevo pacto en mi sangre; hagan esto todas las veces que la beban, en memoria de mi.”

Come with your faith and your doubts, with your hopes and your questions, with your joy and your sadness. You belong here. This is the table of Jesus who welcomes all in great love to this feast. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, come, for you belong here together with the saints present and past as we receive nourishment for our souls!

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

## COMMUNION SONG

UNA ESPIGA (SHEAVES OF SUMMER)

UMH 637

*Going Forth as the Body of Christ*

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

God of all love, we lift our hearts to you. God of all comfort, we thank you for your blessing. In this holy meal we have tasted your goodness and affection.

**Through your Holy Spirit, renew us in your likeness and hold us with your love. When all things are made new, gather us with all your children at that heavenly banquet where we shall see you face to face. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING SONG

PUES SI VIVIMOS (VS. 1 & 2 EN ESPAÑOL)

UMC 356

## \*BENEDICTION

## SENDING & POSTLUDE

*May our prayers be never ceasing.  
May our hope lead to us new beginnings.*

---

**Cover Art:** Thoma, Hans, 1839-1924. Lemon seller, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58015> [retrieved June 21, 2023]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hans\\_Thoma\\_Zitronenverk%C3%A4uferin.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hans_Thoma_Zitronenverk%C3%A4uferin.jpg).

**Call to Worship:** Nancy C. Townley. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1590/worship-connection-september-13-2020>

**Confession/Words of Assurance:** Confession & Words of Assurance: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5164/worship-elements-july-26-2020>

**Prayers of the Community:** Prayers of the Community: Anonymous. <https://www.praywithme.com/prayer-for-the-community.html>

**Poem:** <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/751827-the-fruit-of-silence-is-prayer-the-fruit-of-prayer#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20fruit%20of%20silence%20is%20prayer%2C%20the%20fruit,is%20peace.%E2%80%9D%20%E2%80%95%20Mother%20Theresa%2C%20A%20S%20imple%20Path>

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Communion Liturgy:** Sarah Kathleen Johnson, ed., Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition, First edition (Harrisonburg, Virginia: MennoMedia, 2020), 229,248,252

**Prayer After Communion:** Sarah Kathleen Johnson, ed., Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition, First edition (Harrisonburg, Virginia: MennoMedia, 2020), 238

**Sending:**

***\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.***

---

**LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM**

*Equilla Curry, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Patricia Hall, Jack Kasander, Cam Richesson '23, Deklan Rupp, Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18., and DV Yost.  
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor*

---

**THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:**

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.*

*To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.*

*To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*