

(Words in Italics are not on the screen)

Welcome & Announcements (Stuart)

Introduction of self and mention of the mission of Morning Star:

~Our mission is to point people to the grace of God found in Jesus Christ. We pursue this mission through a vision of inspirational worship, radical inclusion, and the alleviation of suffering.

Connect Card/Sign-In

T-shirts

Announcements:

1. Sunday, May 22 – Burger Throwdown &
End-of-School Bash @ 4:00
2. Monday, May 23 – Congregational Care Meeting for those interested in serving in congregational care
3. Sunday, May 29 – InterAct church begins

Call to Worship (Stuart introduces)

Someone: Jesus offers a new yet old commandment, that we should love each other.

Everyone: With the incredible power and the great depth of God's love for us, we truly can love one another.

Someone: In our love for one another, the world will know whom and what we worship.

Everyone: We are the children of God; let us love one another.

Peace (Stuart)

And now, please stand and pass the peace to one another from where you are.

Opening Hymn: UMH# 657 This is the Day

**This is the day,
this is the day
that the Lord hath made,
that the Lord hath made.**

**Let us rejoice,
let us rejoice
and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.**

**This is the day
that the Lord hath made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day,
this is the day
that the Lord hath made.**

Scripture (Steve Georgi/Sherry Brown)

John 13:31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him,^[a] God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a

new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Message (Amy): Two Gifts from Jesus: Love (Series Part 1 of 2)

Pastoral Prayer (Kathy)

Gracious God, we thank you for your steadfast love, for all that we are and all that we have, knowing that all things come from you. As we come before you in prayer, we lift to you the joys and concerns, the hopes and dreams of our lives. We bring before you all those on our hearts in need of your healing mercies and compassionate love. May we be present in their lives not only in our prayers, but in our lives and actions as well.

Through Jesus you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. Help us to see each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ. Help us to build a future where peace reigns, justice is fulfilled with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And now we pray together as Jesus taught his disciples,

The Lord's Prayer (Kathy)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Giving Moment (Amy or Stuart)

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Hymn: UMH # 384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling v 1,2,4

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.

Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;

**changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Holy Communion (Amy)

(Begin with a reference to the elements and the open table.)

(Invitation)

*Beloved,
we are invited to come and gather at the table of love and liberation,
to feast on the dreams of God,
to be nourished by but a taste of what God desires to do among us.
God calls us from institutional halls of power,
From shelters and the streets,
From classrooms and pulpits,
From bars and prison cells.
God calls us as we are, from wherever we are,
to come and be in solidarity with Christ,
who lives and loves on the margins.*

Confession

*In acknowledgement of the ways that we have not fully embraced or
shared God's deep and abiding love for humanity, we will now take time
to observe a moment of silent confession, which will conclude with a
prayer that we will speak out loud together.*

Let us observe a moment of silent confession.

[SILENCE]

And now, let us pray together . . .

**Gracious and Loving God, we confess that we've failed to love
you relentlessly. We've neglected to follow Jesus on paths of
uncertainty; we've stopped short of taking risks for one another.**

We've refrained from calling unjust power down from its throne and from lifting up the lonely, the impoverished and the burdened. Forgive us, we pray. Fill us with a love that teaches us to align ourselves with your children who suffer for any reason. Strengthen our faith in believing that together, we might enflesh new possibilities of healing, connection and freedom from all that destroys. Amen.

The Good News

Hear the Good News: When these are the desires of our hearts, we open ourselves even further to experience the boundless love of God because in the name of Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. AMEN.

(Bread and Cup Slide – keep as background until post-communion prayer)

(Institution)

*In this meal,
we remember the life, death, and resurrection of
the One who still takes on flesh among us today.
On the night he would be arrested,
Jesus gathered his friends and companions.
In the midst of a tense and dangerous time,
they found each other at table,
connecting over the story of God-enfleshed among them.
And as they did so, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God,
broke the bread and shared it with his disciples saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
When the supper was over, he also took the cup,
gave thanks to God, and shared it with his disciples, saying,
“Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

(Consecration)

*And so we pray,
Come Holy Spirit,
Breath of God,
Renewer of Life,
settle on these gifts and all who gather here,
that we might be transformed
by your radical love,
your eternal embrace,
and your grace that makes all things new.
Amen.*

(Distribution)

*Beloved, with gratitude in our hearts for the depths of God's love for us,
I invite you to partake with me now, as we remember, once again...*

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.
(The bread is served, followed by a moment of silent reflection.)

This is the cup of salvation, poured out for you.
(The cup is served, followed by a moment of silent reflection.)

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(Post-Communion Prayer)

Let us pray together . . .

Gracious and Loving God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others with love and grace. In the name of Jesus, who set this example for us, we pray. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (Amy)

We believe in an amazing God, who weeps with us on Good Friday and transforms our tears into alleluias on Easter morning, who has the last word on evil, who never tires of loving and working for good.

We believe in the Risen Christ, not stuck in a tomb of despair nailed to a dead-end future or buried in the past, but ALIVE and willing to walk with us on the ups and downs of our own journey.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence, the divine breath of joy, hope and possibility. We believe the Spirit creates a community of belonging, compassion and justice so that the whole world may be filled with wonder and hope.

We believe we are to live as an Easter people grinning with hope, contagious with joy and boundless in love. Amen.

Closing Hymn: UMH#430 O Master Let Me Walk with Thee v 1,2,4

**1. O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**2. Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**4. In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,**

**in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

Before the blessing, mention the information meeting at 2:00.

Blessing (Amy)

(A Franciscan Blessing)

May God bless us with a restless discomfort
about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our heart.

May God bless us with holy anger
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
**so that we may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace
among all people.**

May God bless us with the gift of tears
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the
loss of all that they cherish,
**so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and
transform their pain into joy.**

May God bless us with enough foolishness
to believe that we really can make a difference in this world,
**so that we are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim
cannot be done.**

*In the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
who loves us very much, Amen.*

Go in peace, to love and serve!