



# CHURCH REIMAGINED

**Online Worship Resource** (Sunday, September 13, 2020)

**BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION**

Prelude:

**Give Thanks**

Henry Smith

Give thanks, with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (Repeat)

And now, let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say  
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks.

Jane Kerr, organ, David Maley, piano

Welcome & Announcements

## **Call to Worship**

Please join me in the responsive Call to Worship:

The Living God has sent the living bread from heaven

**to fill our hearts with hope and strength!**

**Thanks be to God! Let us worship.**

**Opening Hymn:** "Called As Partners In Christ's Service"

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 fulfill God's chosen end.

**Hymn continues on next page**

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.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving, hope and confidence and peace.

### Call to Confession

Because God is near to the brokenhearted, let us consider how we have lived,  
confessing our sin and trusting in God's mercy to save us. Let us pray....

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you know my plight. Offended at what you ask of me, I have not listened to your words. Complaining, I have betrayed your call to love all. Seeking to stand in my own strength, I have fallen. A stranger to your holiness, I have wandered. Shine your light into my darkness and guide me back to you, that I may reflect your love to others who are broken and in darkness.**

### Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! Christ offers himself as bread for life to all who will receive him.

**Eternal love, eternal life: these are Christ's gifts to us! Thanks be to God!  
Amen.**

### Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Children's Time

## Prayer for Illumination

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

**Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. By your Spirit, let your words pierce our darkness, strengthen our faith, and illumine our witness for you, that we may be the church you long for us to be. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: John 6:52-69

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn after Sermon:** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me....

Though none go with me, still I will follow....

**Prayer of Dedication**

Please join me as we pray together:

**Living God, we give you thanks for Christ, the bread of life, through whom we offer these gifts. Endow our offerings with your power, we pray, that they may express your steadfast love and impart your sustaining strength to all who have need. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Benediction**

Postlude:

**Come Labor On**

Arranged Hal Hopson

Come, labor on. Who can stand idle on the harvest plain  
while all around us waves the golden grain?

And to each servant does the Master  
say, "Go work today."

Come, labor on. Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!  
No arm so weak but may do service here.  
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill  
God's righteous will.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,  
David Maley, piano, Amanda Fahrig, liturgist, and Jon Jelsma, technology  
team