Sunday, November 2, 2025

Culmore
United Methodist Church

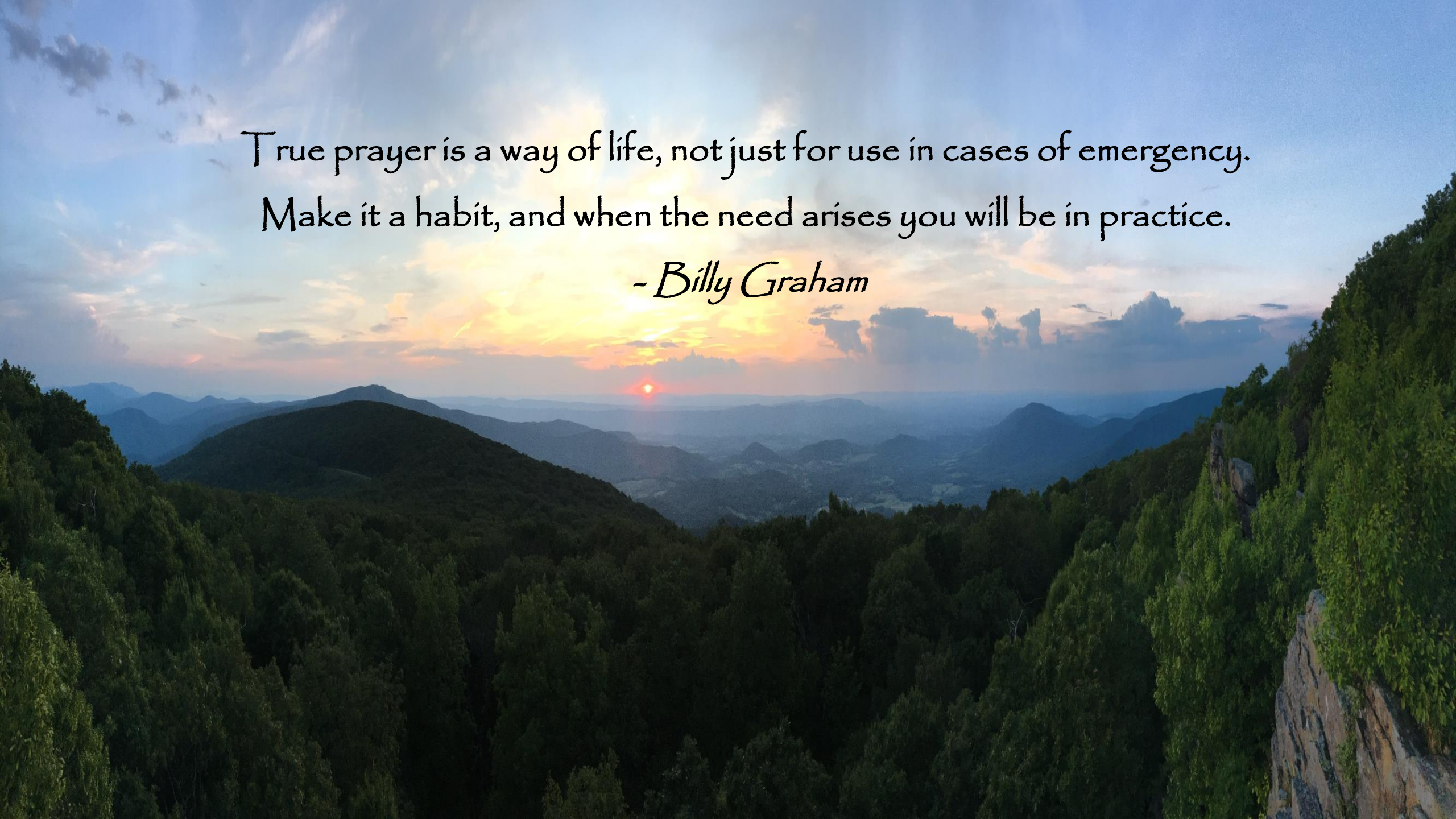
Welcome and
Good Morning!

Communion
Art by Sue Carroll

Happy Birthday, Angela!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.

The Power of Prayer


True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency.
Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice.
~ Billy Graham

According to the Gospels, how often and when did Jesus pray?

Constantly – Luke 5:16

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

When he is baptized - Luke 3:20-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

When he chooses the 12 apostles - Luke 6:12

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God.

After feeding the 5,000 - Matthew 14: 23

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

After healing the sick – Mark 1: 35

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

When he blesses the children – Matthew 19:13

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray.

After predicting his death– Luke 9: 28

Now about eight days after, Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray– Luke 11:1

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus predicts Simon Peter’s denial – Luke 22: 31-33

Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

The night he was betrayed – Luke 22: 39-44

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed… In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Jesus prays for his disciples – John 17:1

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.”

Matthew 18: 19-20

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Sweet Hour of Prayer - UMH 496

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Radiance Acapella - Zimbabwe

Opening Prayer

Teach me, O God, to use whatever happens to draw me closer to you.

Let disappointment teach me patience.

Let success give me a humble heart.

Let challenges encourage and strengthen me.

No matter what, let me always remember You are here.

Let joy fill my heart with praise for You. *Amen*

Most of my struggles in the Christian life

circle around the same two themes:

-why God doesn't act the way I want God to

-why I don't act the way God wants me to.

Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge.

— Philip Yancey

I now see prayer not so much as a way of getting God to do my will as a way of being available to get in the stream of what God wants to accomplish on earth. Prayer is a window into knowing the mind of God, whose kingdom is entrusted to all of us frail, selfish people on earth.

— Philip Yancey

Prayer is not asking.

Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition,

and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.

–Mother Teresa

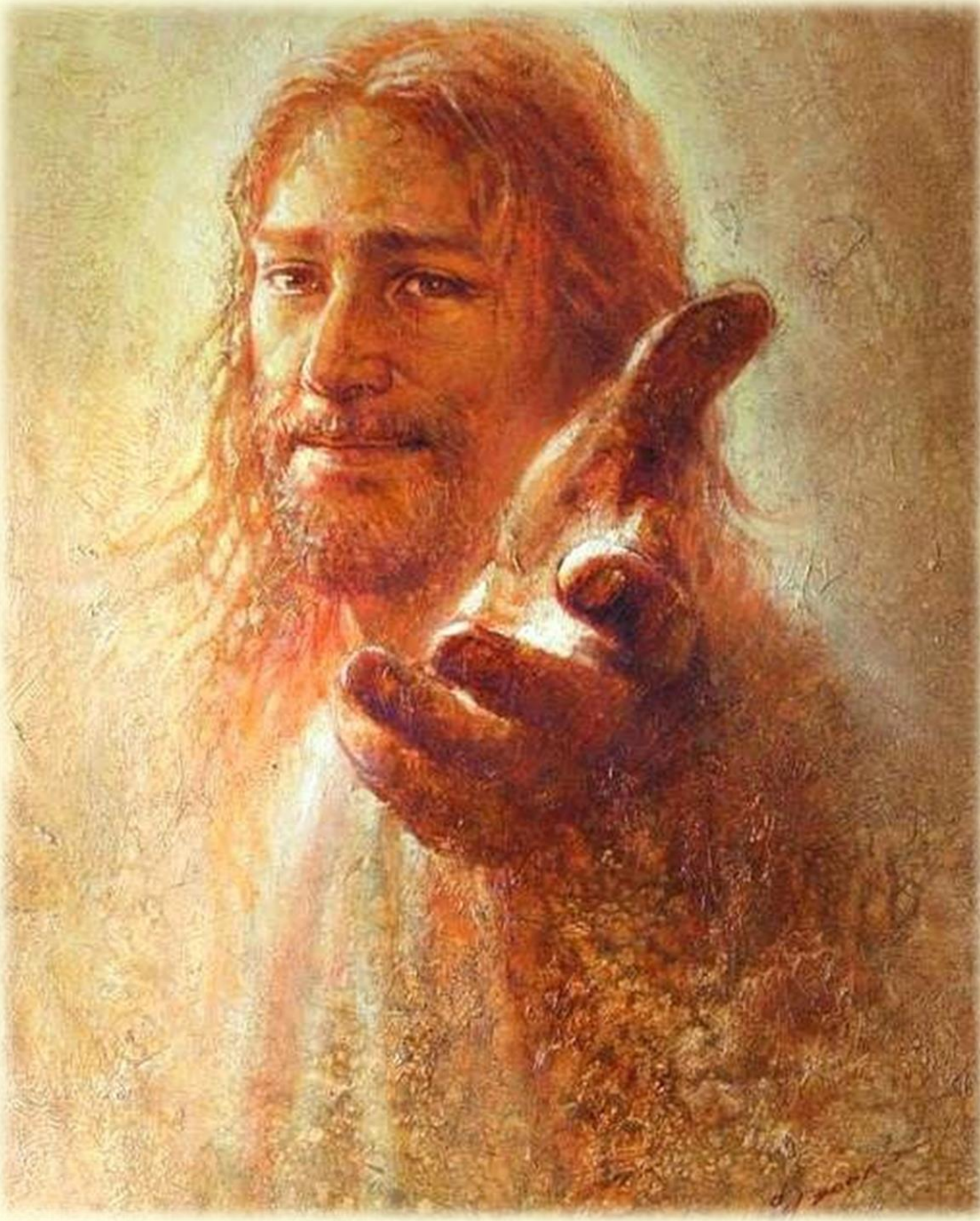
WRONG!!!

Come Emmanuel W&S 3130

Come and speak to us, come and renew us
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.
Grace to implore us, ever before us
Come and restore us, Emmanuel.

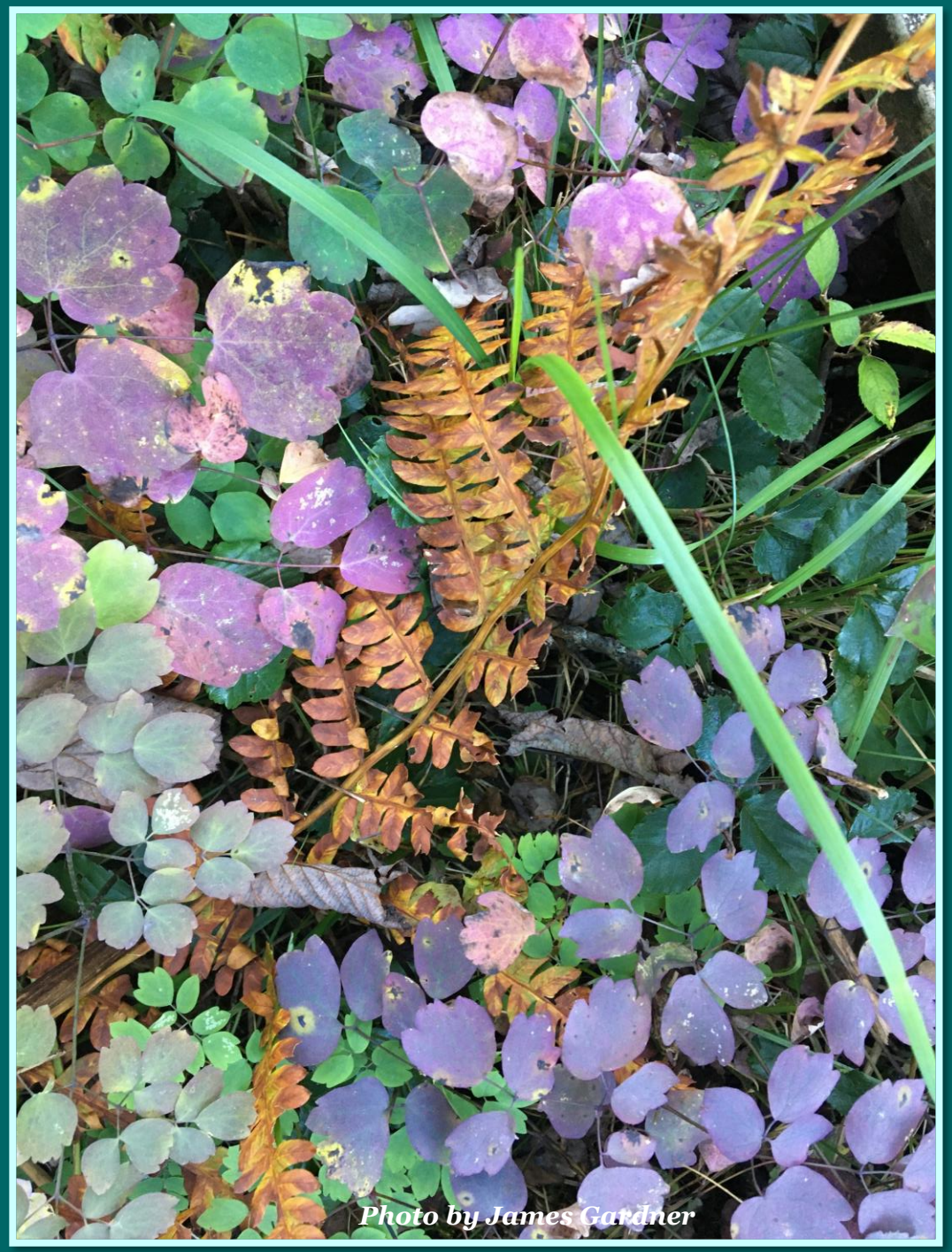
Once mercy found us, still You astound us
Hold and surround us, Emmanuel.
Living inside us, faithful to guide us
Cover and hide us, Emmanuel.

Love that begins us, pardons and wins us
Come and reign in us, Emmanuel.
Come and speak to us, fill and renew us,
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.



God lifts us up when we fall,
forgives us when we fail and never
ceases to believe in us,
giving us the strength to continue
and the power to grow.

—Jonathan Sacks



Responsive Reading: *I Am There* – James Freeman

Do you need Me?
I am there.

You cannot see Me,
Yet I am the light you see by.

You cannot hear Me,
Yet I speak through your voice.

You cannot feel Me,
Yet I am the power at work in your hands.

I am at work, though you do not understand My ways.

I am at work, though you do not recognize My works.

Only in absolute stillness, beyond self, can you know Me as I am,

…and then but as a feeling and a faith.

Yet I am there. Yet I hear. Yet I answer.

Painting by Kim DeGroat

Though you fail to find Me, I do not fail you.

Though your faith in Me is unsure, My faith in you never wavers, because I know you, because I love you.

Beloved, I am there.

Covenant Prayer – W&S 3115

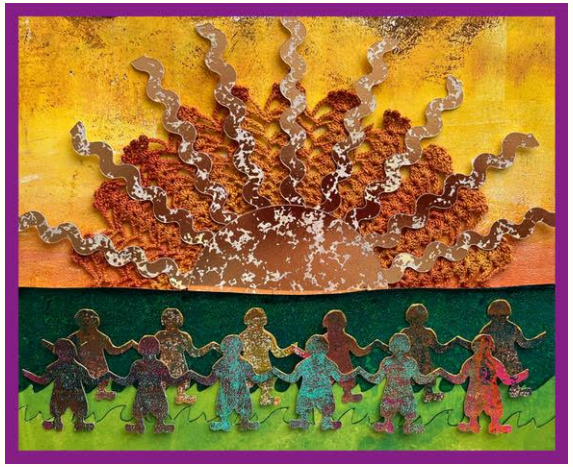
Community Prayer

Lord Jesus,

We give You thanks and praise for being able to pray to You. There is so much comfort and help available for us when we do this, even when we don't get exactly what we want.

You want us to bring absolutely everything to You, then listen for Your guidance. That goes for our concerns when we see evil at work in the world around us.

Loving God, we look forward to the day when Your perfect justice and peace will prevail, but meanwhile there are many things we want to see changed, both for ourselves and others in our world. The needs around us are great, and we rejoice that nothing happens that You do not know about and are working to resolve. ***AMEN***



Art by Sue Carroll

Offering and Doxology
UM Hymnal 95

We give thanks for this wonderful,
generous community of faith.

Doxology - UM Hymnal 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Communion

Art by Sue Carroll

Holy Communion

As Jesus told us, where two or more come together in his name, there He is also. We are all welcome here, to come to our Lord's table and share in His grace and love. In this sacred space, let put aside the world and all its worries for a moment and turn ourselves fully toward Him.

Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Loving Lord, how often we stumble and let You down. In spite of all our missteps, yet You continue to show us unending love and grace. We give thanks for this gift of forgiveness.

We joyfully come to this table, then, trusting in You and not ourselves. Teach us, lead us in Your Holy ways. ***Amen***

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

Congregation: ***and also with you.***

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you. Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might,
God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes
Blessed is the one who comes

In the name of the Lord.
In the name of the Lord.

Hosanna!
Hosanna! In the highest.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said, "*Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as your drink it, in remembrance of me.*"

… And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Art by Sue Carroll

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Photo by James Gardner

All honor and glory is yours,

almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. ***Amen***

Breaking of the Bread

Lifting of the Cup

Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.

Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share

is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

Partaking of the Elements

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Art by Sue Carroll

Benediction

Philippians 4: 10