



Photo by James Gardner

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!



Communion

Art by Sue Carroll

Good Morning

A beautiful life does
not just happen
It is built daily by prayer,
humility, sacrifice, and love .



Happy Birthday

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.



Art by Cynthia Farrell- Johnson



Responsive Reading

Breathe in your inherent belovedness.

Breathe out the lure of toxic cycles.

Breathe in the love that makes your heart soft.

Breathe out any anger that is misdirected.

Breathe in acceptance that all cannot be immediately solved.

Breathe out the need to control.

Breathe in the wisdom of ancestors who labored
for collective love and justice.

Breathe out the temptation towards the superficial.

Breathe in the breath of humility.

Breathe out all that makes you shrink.

And then remember the trees.

Their giving and receiving of breath.

See them holding so much for us.

Offer a confession. And a prayer of gratitude.

And let your roots sink deep into the soil of God.





Take This Moment - Worship and Song #3118

Take this moment, sign and space;
Take my friends around;
Here among us make the place
Where your love is found.

Take the time to call my name,
Take the time to mend
Who I am and what I've been,
All I've failed to tend.

Take the little child in me
Scared of growing old;
Help me here to find my worth
Made in Christ's own mold.

Take my talents, take my skills,
Take what's yet to be;
Let my life be yours, and yet
Let it still be me.

Take the tiredness of my days, take my past regret,
Letting your forgiveness touch all I can't forget.

The Book of REVELATION

which God
shows things
past and
future
and the
end

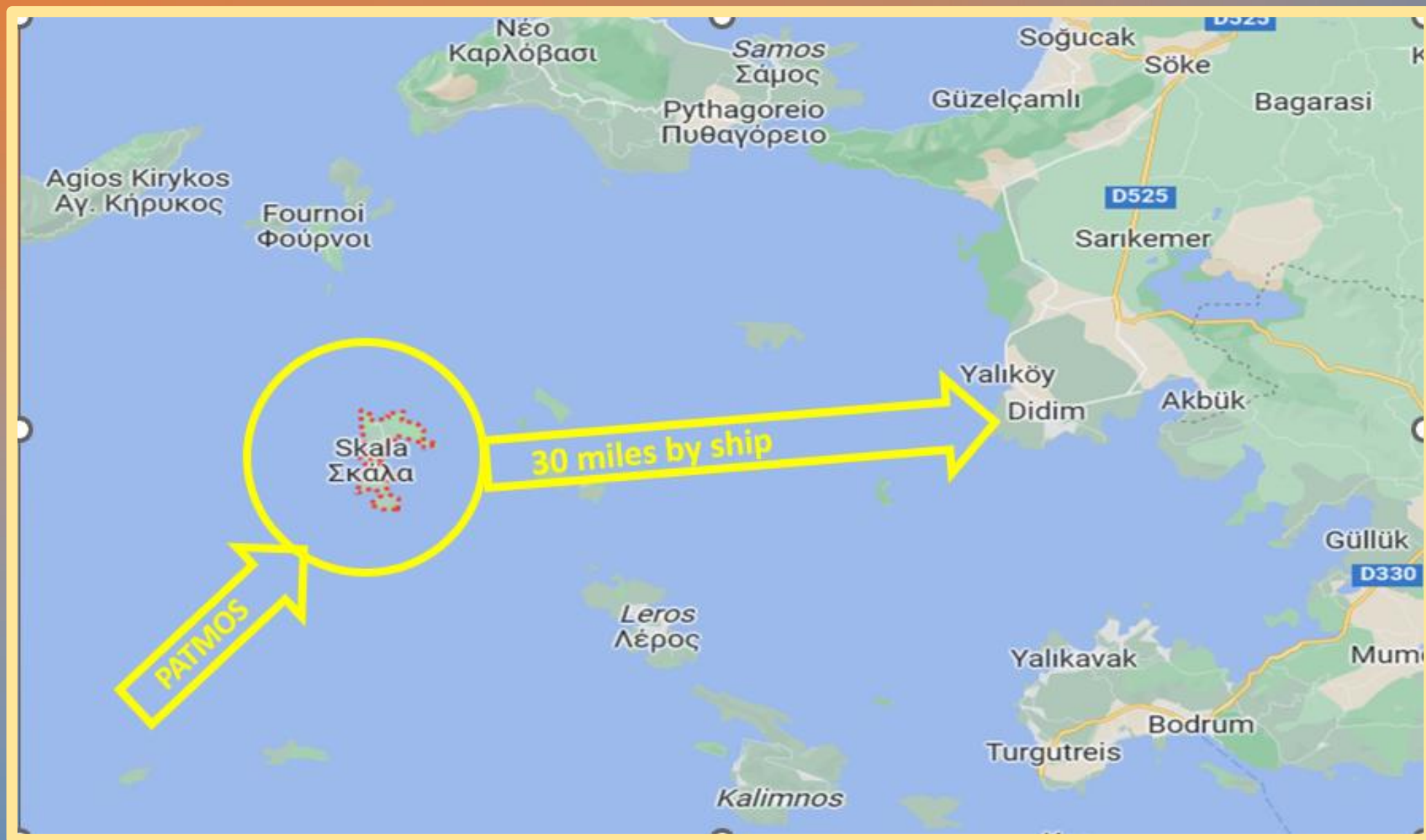
and shall
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7
shall be
all kinds
Even to
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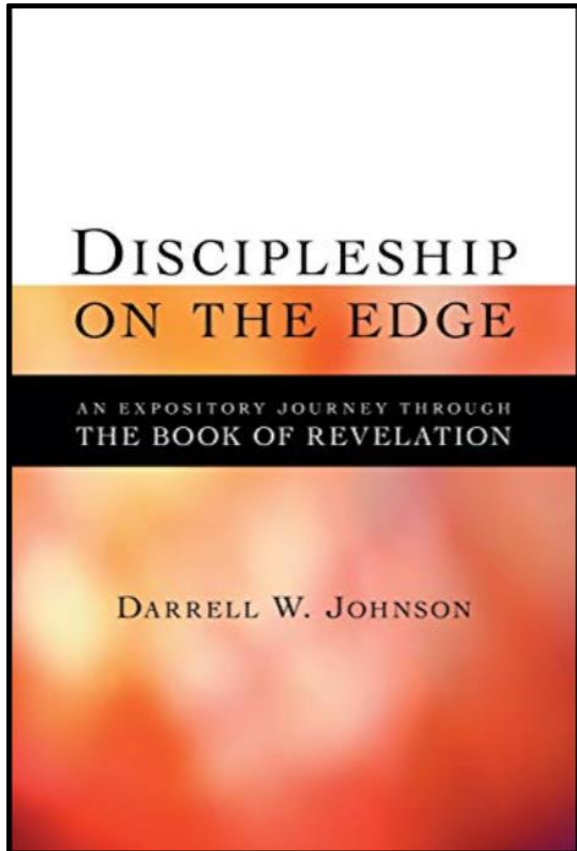


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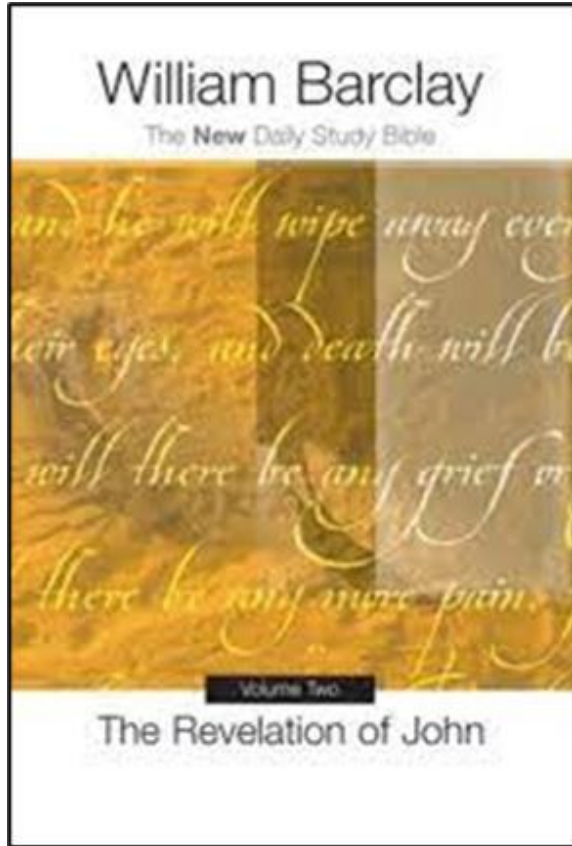
LOCATED IN WHAT IS MODERN DAY TURKEY IT
WAS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST CITIES.





Rev. Dr. Darrell W. Johnson has been pastor of churches in the United States, the Philippines, and Canada and is on the faculty Regent College (Seminary) in Vancouver, Canada. He is considered an expert on the Book of Revelations.





Rev. Dr. William Barclay was a world-renowned New Testament Scholar and Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at Glasgow University in Scotland. He is author of more than 50 books including his acclaimed 17 book series, *The Daily Bible Study*.



Opening Prayer

Loving God,

Forgive us for being lukewarm. Because we live in peace and comfort, we assume there's nothing more we need. Nothing could be further from the truth. We need your holy Presence in our lives.

Often we'd rather straddle the fence than choose a side. For if we say *yes* to you, it probably means saying *no* to the world's glittery things ... and you know how much we love glitter. Oh, how we want both!

Forgive our lukewarm indifference and the compromises we make that keep us on the fence. Make us serious and honest believers who value fellowship with you more than the glitter of the world. *Amen*



Revelations 3: 15-22

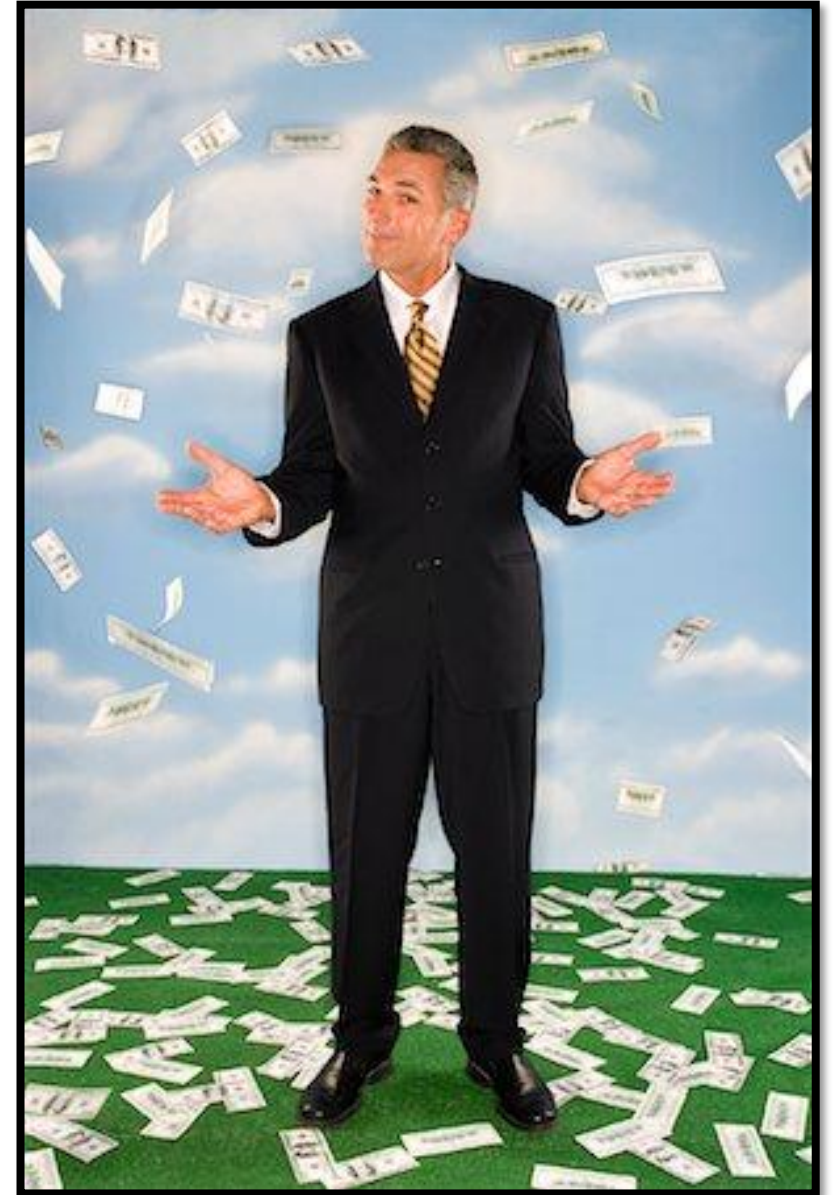
I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot.

I wish that you were either cold or hot.

So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.



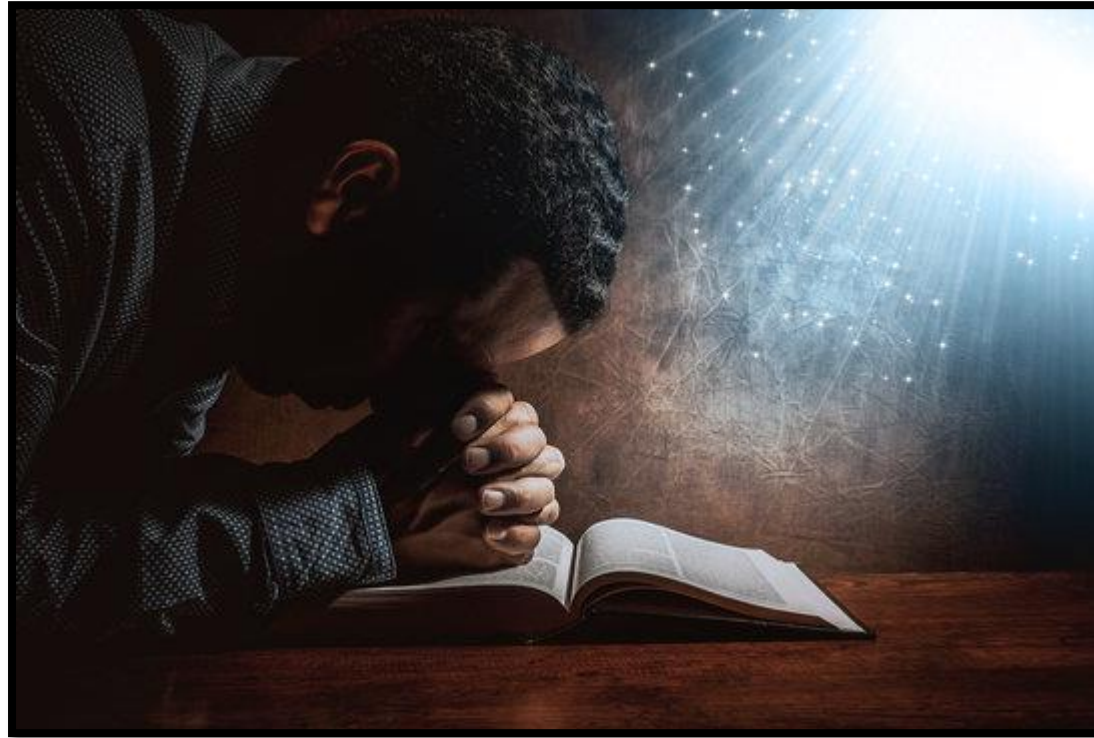
For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered,
and I need nothing.' You do not realize
that you are wretched, pitiable, poor,
blind, and naked.



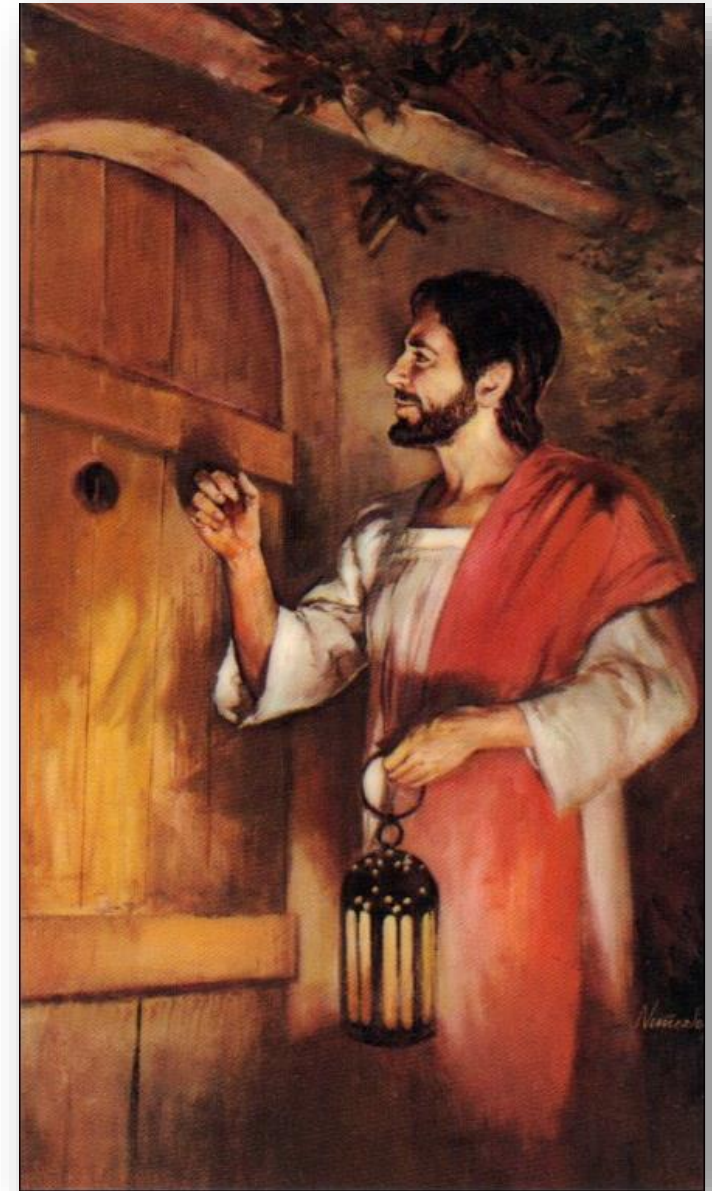


Therefore I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white robes to clothe yourself and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

I reprove and discipline those whom I love.
Be earnest, therefore, and repent.



Listen! **I am standing at the door,** knocking.
If you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in and eat with you, and you with me.
To the one who conquers I will give a place with
me on my throne, just as I myself conquered
and sat down with my Father on his throne.



Let anyone who has an ear listen
to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.



what are other
words for
lukewarm?



tepid, warm, halfhearted,
unenthusiastic, apathetic,
warmish, indifferent, cool,
uninterested, unconcerned



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WHAT WE BELIEVE

- We believe in “going along to get along.”
- We believe that staying silent is better than speaking out.
- We believe in never saying anything controversial.
- We believe that Jesus would never want us to offend anyone’s sensibilities.
- We believe in never getting in the way of greed or creating wealth.
- We believe that what happens in church—stays in church.
- We believe that outside the church, we should tell people what they want to hear.

Who on earth would subscribe to that?

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OUR MASCOT



“What good is a fence if you can’t sit on both sides of it?”

J.R. Ewing - Dallas

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation
and renew a right spirit within me.

Community Prayer

LORD Jesus,

We live in a culture where, from all sides, we are bombarded by messages about what we should—or should not want or have. In addition, the secular world places expectations on us which are often in conflict with Christian values.

Help us **never** be lukewarm or indifferent about practicing our faith. Strengthen us and lend us courage, energy, and passion, both as individuals and together as the body of Christ. Give us courage do this even when it means standing up to criticism, oppression, and sacrifice. Through Christ we pray, **Amen**

Offering and Doxology

UM Hymnal 95



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

Communion



Art by Sue Carroll

Holy Communion



My sisters and brothers, Christ invites us all to His table. He asks that we love him, confess our sins, and grow close to him in faith.

In this holy space, let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive his holy sacrament.

Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Our heavenly Father, You know how often we stumble. We don't come to this table trusting in ourselves; but instead, trusting in You and Your unfailing mercy.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, which proves His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. ***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.



Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Leader: God of power and might,
 God of power and might,
Leader: Heaven and earth are full of your glory
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Leader: Hosanna in the highest.
 Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes
 Blessed is the one who comes
Leader: in the name of the Lord.
 in the name of the Lord.
Leader: Hosanna in the highest.
 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 you 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.





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

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

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

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



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





Benediction

Art by Sue Carroll



He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the tiny, little baby in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother in his hands.

He's got you and me, sister in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

