

Cross Roads UMC Worship Guide
Sunday, July 2, 2023 | 10am
5th Sunday after Pentecost | Communion Sunday

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Songs of Praise:
Build Your Kingdom Here
Gratitude

Call to Worship led by Bill Niemann

L: The gentle shepherd beckons!

P: We cast our eyes down focused on obtaining material abundance.

L: The compassionate shepherd calls!

P: We listen to the noise of the world focused on labels and boundaries.

L: The loving shepherd opens the gate!

P: Help us to see, hear, and feel the abundant love and grace of the Good Shepherd.

Opening Prayer (in unison) led by Bill Niemann

Holy one, we gather together to hear the voice of the Great Shepherd. Help us drown out that which seeks to destroy or kill us and focus instead on the life-giving voice and words of Jesus. Through the strength of your Spirit, be present to us as our compassionate guide and lead us into the gate of life. Amen.

Choral Anthem

Holy Communion

A Time for Children with Sharon Riley

A Song of Preparation

The Battle Hymn of the Republic, UMH 717

Scripture: John 8:1-11 (NRSV) read by Bill Niemann

8 1 while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they went away,

one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

This Is the Word of God. Do you believe It?

Yes, we believe It.

Message: Drop Your Stones

A Time of Prayer

A Time of Giving

In a world that calls us to seek for 'me', we struggle to understand and see the abundance among 'us'. As we prepare to give our gifts this day, we reflect on the places of abundance in our community and pledge to continue creating these places. Prick our hearts for the places of lack and need in our community and in our world, that we might be your hands and feet to them.

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

A Song of Invitation: *Just as I Am*, UMH 357

Congregational Benedictional Song: *The Blessing*

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn His face toward you
and give you peace. Amen.

Benedictional Prayer

L: We have reflected on our own weaknesses and on the frailty of others. Jesus says 'Go and sin no more'

P: So we go, no longer accusing ourselves of sins that have been forgiven nor condemning others for the sins that God has forgiven them. As receivers of God's grace we ask for help to be grace-givers in the week ahead. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude