

July 7, 2024



TELLING YOUR STORY

"The Greatest Story"



WELCOME

PRELUDE *Voluntary in G* Stanley

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in this act of worship, seeking you, O God.

**Reaching out to you O Holy One,
praying to find you, trusting you will find us.**

Celebrating that we live, move and exist
in our Creating God.

**Trusting that You are never far away,
we worship you now.**

OPEN HYMN SING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Maker and giver of all, forgive us when we are too
preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives;
when we walk through this world and fail to see the
wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation;
when we walk through our lives and fail to see you
abiding with, within, and around us; when we walk
through holy moments and fail to savor your
presence, instead feeling abandoned in the vast
sweep of life as each day rushes at us with its
demands. Open our eyes to your presence, God of
love, that we may lean on you— for you uphold all
of creation in tenderness and power. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When Jesus left the disciples, he gave us a promise:
"I will not leave you orphaned!" For we, his disciples,
live in him and he in us—the presence of God within
and around all. What a promise! Take courage!
Take comfort! Blessed be God!

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Acts 17:22-29 (CEB)

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars
Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very
religious in every way. As I was walking through town
and carefully observing your objects of worship,
I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an
unknown God.' What you worship as unknown,

I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and
everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth.
He doesn't live in temples made with human hands.
Nor is God served by human hands, as though he
needed something, since he is the one who gives life,
breath, and everything else. From one person God
created every human nation to live on the whole
earth, having determined their appointed times and
the boundaries of their lands. God made the nations
so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to
him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any
of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your
own poets said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore, as
God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the
divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made
by human skill and thought.

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

MUSIC *Simple Gifts* Carl Strommen
 Summer Choir

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 30:18-21 (CEB)

Nonetheless, the LORD is waiting to be merciful to you,
and will rise up to show you compassion. The LORD is
a God of justice; happy are all who wait for him.
People in Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep
no longer. God will certainly be merciful to you.
Hearing the sound of your outcry, God will answer
you. Though the Lord gives you the bread of distress
and the water of oppression, your teacher will no
longer hide, but you will see your teacher. If you stray
to the right or the left, you will hear a word that comes
from behind you: "This is the way; walk in it."

MESSAGE *The Greatest Story*

OFFERING

You may give your offering by text- Text UMCWC \$50
to 73256, by using the QR code on your screen,
at umcwc.org, through the mail, by automated giving
through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office.
Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERING VIDEO

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took 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, 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 and for many 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.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. 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 all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 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.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMNS

nos. 620, 383, 618

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal 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. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Because He Lives

no. 364

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Messiter/Ritter

Bold text indicates congregational response.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

Liturgists: Rev. Mercedes Case, Rev. Allen Keller

Reader: Pete Rozea

Summer Choir Director: Tom Sabatino

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Children's Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark, Jake

Joslin, Heidi Krug, Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush,

Cory Smith, Steve Stouffer

WELCOME!

**Today we welcome our new pastor,
Rev. Cyndi Stouffer and her husband, Steve.**

Join us for cake in the Gathering Area following the 8:45 worship service. There will be no adult Sunday School so that everyone can greet Pastor Cyndi and Steve. Let's give the Stouffers a warm welcome into our church family.

JULY SERMON SERIES "TELLING YOUR STORY"

This series will focus on the importance of our stories. Our personal stories, our communal stories, and the story of faith that we want to share with the world. What is the story you have to tell?

July 7: The Greatest Story

July 14: The Whole Story

July 21: God, Where Were You?

July 28: News Worth Sharing; A Life Worth Living



**Christian Education for all ages
continues all summer long!**

Sundays at 10:00 am

Children ages 2-completed grade 5 will meet in rooms 6/7 and celebrate the wonder for all that God has done.

Youth Sunday Morning Bible Study - for youth who have completed grades 6-12 will meet in the youth room

Adult Summer Seminar—Meets in the chapel beginning July 14th. They will explore and discuss matters of faith raised by news and events.



This choir practices in room 10 on Sunday mornings during July and August at 8:15 AM and sings for the 8:45 AM worship service. Come on the Sundays that you are available! For ages youth to adult.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE & LEARNING TRIP TEAM

**Ben, Brad, Caroline,
C.C., Cory, Eddie,
Emily, Gabe, Heidi,
Jackie, Jake, Josh,
Sophia, Steph, Steve,
Tony, Zach, & Zeke**

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA

JULY 6-13, 2024

