

A VISIT WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken together)*

Gracious God, you know how easy it is for us to sit here, trying to remain cheerful in our distancing, but tied to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of misinformation and mistrust. We dare not to hope, but prepare for disappointment. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, as they stayed in their room, waiting and fearful.

Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let the light of God's eternal love flood into your hearts this day.
Feel the healing presence of God in your lives. Accept God's love and hope for you.
This is the gift freely given for you by Jesus Christ, God's risen Son our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 803

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

RESIGNATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(video: A Prayer for Our Earth)*

Equipping

ANTHEM

"Within These Walls"

by Pepper Choplin

Chancel Ensemble

*Within these walls, we assemble. Within these walls, we gather in your name.
As we join our hearts in a holy union, we come to find communion in your holiness again.
Within these walls, let there be harmony; a common bond; a Spirit from above.
And as Your children let us love each other as sisters and as brothers united by your love.
We are the branches; you are the Vine. We are the vessels and you are the Wine.
We are the body; you are the Head. For ev'ry hunger, you are the Bread.
Within these walls, let there be refuge, a place of rest when doubts and trials form.
And let us lift each other as we gather
to find your peace no matter how terrible the storm.
Within these walls, give us your vision. Within these walls, let us understand
that beyond these walls, there are hurting people who have never felt your healing hand.*

*Beyond these walls, send us forward. Beyond these walls, let your will be done.
We are your people; you will leave us never, and we shall work together
until your kingdom comes. your kingdom come!*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 2:42-47 (CEB*)

Andrew Cox, Confirmand

⁴²The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were united and shared everything. ⁴⁵They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. ⁴⁶Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. ⁴⁷They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Not Some Hippie Commune"

Rev. Mitch Trigger

[Sending](#)

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF INVITATION AND BREAKING OF BREAD

When the time was right, you O God, sent Jesus to be among us.

Born into this life, seeing your grace revealed in all things, he laughed with those who laughed, and mourned with those who mourned. Through your love, he healed the sick, he welcomed the outcast, he challenged those in power, and the structures that kept them there. And he called us back to Your love.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, the Christ laughs and cries, heals and welcomes, challenges and loves, again and again and again.

We have been told that, on the night before he was taken to be tortured to death on a cross, Jesus sat with his disciples, and ate with them, in a meal of remembrance.

Jesus took a loaf of bread, asked your blessing upon it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take this – all of you – and eat it.
This is me. My Body. Given for you.
Each time you eat it, remember me.”

Close to the meal’s end, he took a cup filled with wine,
asked your blessing upon it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take this – all of you – and drink it. This is me.
This is my promise in my life’s blood - poured out for you and for the world.”
Each time you drink it, remember me.”

And once again, we know that Jesus is with us, laughing and grieving, caring and loving,
inviting us once again to the table. So we, his disciples, eat bread and drink wine – and
we will remember.

COMMUNION PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Andrew Cox, Confirmand

HYMN 408

“There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“They’ll Know We Are Christians”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Peter Scholte

**Common English Bible*

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