



UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF ANOKA

*Following Jesus, Providing Hope, Making Disciples*

**And in that moment...Everything Changed!**  
**Sunday, May 9, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* arr. Ron Boud

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day that the Lord has made!

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

As we gather to worship, we open our hearts to receive the invitation of God's grace.

**Invite and inspire us, O God!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, you invite us to join you in the work of building a world that reflects your goodness, mercy, and justice. This Mother's Day, we give thanks for all those who have set a loving example for us in the life of faith. Give us the courage to love one another in your name. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

Mothering God, you gave me birth In the bright morning of this world

Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun

Mothering Christ, you took my form offering me your food of light

Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one in arms of patience hold me close

So that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know

**FIRST READING**

Acts 10:1-18 (CEB)

There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion in the Italian Company. He and his whole household were pious, Gentile God-worshippers. He gave generously to those in need among the Jewish people and prayed to God constantly. One day at nearly three o'clock in the afternoon, he clearly saw an angel from God in a vision. The angel came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Startled, he stared at the angel and replied, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said, "Your prayers and your compassionate acts are like a memorial offering to God. Send messengers to Joppa at once and summon a certain Simon, the one known as Peter. He is a guest of Simon the tanner, whose house is near the seacoast."

When the angel who was speaking to him had gone, Cornelius summoned two of his household servants along with a pious soldier from his personal staff. He explained everything to them, then sent them to Joppa.

At noon on the following day, as their journey brought them close to the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted to eat. While others were preparing the meal, he had a visionary experience. He saw heaven opened up and something like a large linen sheet being lowered to the earth by its four corners. Inside the sheet were all kinds of four-legged animals, reptiles, and wild birds. A voice told him, "Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!"

Peter exclaimed, "Absolutely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke a second time, "Never consider unclean what God has made pure." This happened three times, then the object was suddenly pulled back into heaven. Peter was bewildered about the meaning of the vision. Just then, the messengers sent by Cornelius discovered the whereabouts of Simon's house and arrived at the gate. Calling out, they inquired whether the Simon known as Peter was a guest there.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*I Saw the Light*, Hank Williams, Sr.  
U Can Jug or Nots

## **SECOND READING**

Acts 10:19-36 (CEB)

While Peter was brooding over the vision, the Spirit interrupted him, "Look! Three people are looking for you. Go downstairs. Don't ask questions; just go with them because I have sent them." So Peter went downstairs and told them, "I'm the one you are looking for. Why have you come?" They replied, "We've come on behalf of Cornelius, a centurion and righteous man, a God-worshipper who is well-respected by all Jewish people. A holy angel directed him to summon you to his house and to hear what you have to say." Peter invited them into the house as his guests. The next day he got up and went with them, together with some of the believers from Joppa. They arrived in Caesarea the following day.

Anticipating their arrival, Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in order to honor him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Get up! Like you, I'm just a human." As they continued to talk, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them, "You all realize that it is forbidden for a Jew to associate or visit with outsiders. However, God has shown me that I should never call a person impure or unclean. For this reason, when you sent for me, I came without objection. I want to know, then, why you sent for me."

Cornelius answered, "Four days ago at this same time, three o'clock in the afternoon, I was praying at home. Suddenly a man in radiant clothing stood before me. He said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayers, and your compassionate acts are like a memorial offering to him. Therefore, send someone to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, located near the seacoast.' I sent for you right away, and you were kind enough to come. Now, here we are, gathered in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has directed you to say." Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all!

## HYMN

*Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word, I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art

## SERMON

*An Unexpected Invitation*

Rev. Rachael Warner

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Down to the River to Pray*, G. Allen

U Can Jug or Nots

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura Hannah

## 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.**

## COMMUNION SONG

*Welcome Table*, anonymous

U Can Jug or Nots

## HOLY COMMUNION

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

Lift up your hearts to the Lord; **We lift up our hearts with thanks and praise!**

We are yours, all yours, Holy God, all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise,  
we give it all to you, with all our bodies, and minds, and voices.

We are your people, whom you have called covenant with you,  
a covenant we have continually broken, and you have continuously sustained.

How can we but praise you, joining our voices with the song of angels and saints,

**Jesus Christ who comes in our God's name, you are worthy!**

**Lamb of God who died and rose again, you are worthy!**

**Hosanna now we sing! Hosanna now we sing!**

You are holy, O God! You are worthy, O Christ! Worthy when you preached the good news that God's kingdom has drawn near and as you have gathered disciples, then and now, to learn and show the world what life in God's reign means:

healing for the sick, new life for the dead,  
cleansing for the lepers, freedom for the possessed,  
new birth, new hope, new creation breaking in for all.

Worthy too, the night we betrayed you, when you took the bread, blessed it and broke it,  
and gave it to your disciples. Worthy when you told them,  
"This is my body broken for you. Remember me." **We remember.**

Worthy when you took the cup, praised God and shared it, and worthy when you said, "This  
is the cup of salvation. Drink from it and remember me." **We remember.**

We remember, and we praise you with our lives and these gifts of bread and cup,  
proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith:

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

Come upon us, Holy Spirit and upon these gifts. Make them Christ for us. Make us one in  
Christ as we pray for the church and the world:

That we may proclaim the gospel boldly, **Hear us, O God.**

That we may offer your healing for all who are sick, or torn, or weary, **Hear us, O God.**

That our beloved dead may be raised, and death's power vanquished, **Hear us, God.**

That all who are possessed, oppressed, and distressed may be set free, **Hear us, O God.**

Come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit, this day, and every day until that day when we eat  
together in your kingdom and our rejoicing shall know no end. All blessing, honor, glory and  
power be yours, Holy God, now and forever. **Amen!**

We eat together in grace and love. We drink together in mercy and salvation.

#### **PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION**

**Lord, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this meal and the grace we  
receive from you strengthen us in love. Send us to serve you as we serve others in the  
name of Jesus. Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Shalom to You*

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends; may God's full mercies bless you my friends  
In all your living, and through your loving, Christ be your shalom; Christ be your shalom

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **POSTLUDE**

*March Heroique, by William Stickles*

Organist, Diane Gronewold  
Worship Tech, Jake Berg