



UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF ANOKA

*Following Jesus, Providing Hope, Making Disciples*

**Staying the Course**  
**Sunday, June 6, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

*Hymn to Joy* arr. Albert L. Travis

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, now, to worship the Lord.

**We lay down the hustle and bustle of our lives.**

For this time, we pause from earthly things to readjust our focus.

**We come to renew our focus on things above.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God of heaven and earth, we gather now to worship you. Fill us with your Spirit, that we will be inspired to love and serve one another. Help us to stay the course and follow Jesus in our world. Show us how to stay focused in following you. Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Be Present at Our Table, Lord*

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored

These mercies bless and grant that we may feast in fellowship with thee

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Jesus invites us all to this table. Come, share a meal together. Come, you who love Jesus, who are learning to love Jesus, who want to love Jesus. Come, confess and discover grace. Come, be at peace with God, with others, and within yourself.

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.**

**FIRST READING**

Psalm 138 (CEB), Cassidy Tanner

I give thanks to you with all my heart, Lord. I sing your praise before all other gods.  
 I bow toward your holy temple and thank your name for your loyal love and faithfulness  
 because you have made your name and word greater than everything else.  
 On the day I cried out, you answered me. You encouraged me with inner strength.  
 Let all the earth's rulers give thanks to you, Lord, when they hear what you say.  
 Let them sing about the Lord's ways because the Lord's glory is so great!  
 Even though the Lord is high, he can still see the lowly,  
 but God keeps his distance from the arrogant.  
 Whenever I am in deep trouble, you make me live again;  
 you send your power against my enemies' wrath; you save me with your strong hand.  
 The Lord will do all this for my sake. Your faithful love lasts forever, Lord!  
 Don't let go of what your hands have made.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*God On the Mountain*, by Tracy Dartt  
 Men's Quartet

**RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES (See insert)****HYMN***This is the Day of New Beginnings*

This is a day of new beginnings,  
 time to remember and move on,  
 time to believe what love is bringing,  
 laying to rest the pain that's gone.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
 step from the past and leave behind  
 our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
 seeking new paths, and sure to find.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
 God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
 can make for us a world of difference,  
 as faith and hope are born again.

In faith we'll gather round the table to taste  
 and share what love can do.  
 This is a day of new beginnings;  
 our God is making all things new.

**SECOND READING**

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 (CEB)

We have the same faithful spirit as what is written in scripture: I had faith, and so I spoke. We also have faith, and so we also speak. We do this because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and he will bring us into his presence along with you. All these things are for your benefit. As grace increases to benefit more and more people, it will cause gratitude to increase, which results in God's glory. So we aren't depressed. But even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day. Our temporary minor problems are producing an eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison. We don't focus on the things that can be seen but on the things that can't be seen. The things that can be seen don't last, but the things that can't be seen are eternal. We know that if the tent that we live in on earth is torn down, we have a building from God. It's a house that isn't handmade, which is eternal and located in heaven.

**HYMN**

*I Have Decided*

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus  
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back

Come walk beside me and follow Jesus; come walk beside me and follow Jesus  
Come walk beside me and follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back

We go together to follow Jesus; we go together to follow Jesus  
We go together to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back

**SERMON**

***Stay Focused***  
Rev. Rachael Warner

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children* arr. Jack Schrader  
Men's Quartet

**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.**

**CLOSING**

*Irish Blessing*, arr. Don Gray  
Men's Quartet

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare*, by Jean Joseph Mouret

Organist, Diane Gronewold  
Worship Tech, Jake Berg  
Men's Quartet: Dale Brown, Bruce Falink, Max Majilzadeh, John Revier