



UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF ANOKA

Following Jesus, Providing Hope, Making Disciples

GHOST STORIES
Sunday, July 11, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Is it possible for us to live again, even after all we've been through?

It is possible! God is here!

Can we emerge from our tombs and be the people of God in our world?

We can, and we will in the name of Jesus the Christ!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of Life, you call us out of our dark places, offering us the grace of new life. When we see nothing but hopelessness, you surprise us with the breath of your spirit. Call us out of our complacency and routines, set us free from our self-imposed bonds, and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace, In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Be Present at Our Table, Lord (#621)

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

We open our weekly worship here, at the table, together as one body in Christ. Jesus invites us all to this table - every one. Here, God's grace is freely shared. 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, O 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.

HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues (#57)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of thy name

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace

THE STORY OF UNDEAD LAZ

Based on John 11

A certain man, Lazarus, was very sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha were close friends of Jesus. He was from Bethany. Mary and Martha were worried because their brother was so sick, so they sent someone to tell Jesus right away.

Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus, but he was not as concerned as they were, so he decided to stay where he was. He did not rush to Bethany to see them. Instead, he decided to finish what he was doing, and that took about two days.

Finally, Jesus said to his disciples that he wanted to return to Judea and go to Bethany. The disciples thought that was a terrible idea! Everyone who hated Jesus and wanted him to be arrested or killed was in Judea. But Jesus told them he wanted to visit Lazarus. He said, "Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up."

The disciples said, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get well." They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus knew more. Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. Let's go to him." Jesus was going to do something amazing and strange, and he wanted the disciples to be there to see it.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world."

After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. She walked right up to him and declared, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?" They replied, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to cry. The people gathered there said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Rose
Women's Quartet

SERMON

Undead Laz
Rev. Rachael Warner

SPECIAL MUSIC

Deep River
Women'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 HYMN

The Trees of the Field (#2279)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands, as you go out with joy.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Organist, Diane Gronewold
Worship Tech, Jake Berg