



UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF ANOKA

*Following Jesus, Providing Hope, Making Disciples*

**GHOST STORIES**  
**Sunday, July 18, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

*Solid Rock* arr. by Rick Parks

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,

**God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.**

When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,

**Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.**

When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:

**the Spirit invites us to sit at the table of grace.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, your power fills the universe with light and love. You welcome strangers and care for the lonely. We are awed by the extent of your compassion. Teach us to love as you love. Meet us here in worship. Renew our spirits and fill us with the life that only you can offer. 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**

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 God, Our Help in Ages Past (#117)*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

## **THE STORY OF THE TUMBLIN' WALLS (based on Joshua 5 and 6)**

Moses had led the Israelites through the wilderness for forty years, on their way to the promised land. Joshua was a helper to Moses until Moses died. God spoke to Joshua and said, "Now you will be the leader of the people. Get them ready to cross the Jordan River to the land that I will give to you, just as I promised. No one will be able to stand against you. I will be with you, and I will never leave you. You will need to be strong and brave and lead the people."

So Joshua began to gather the army and give directions to the officers. He told them to get their supplies ready to cross the river into the promised land. Joshua remembered that the people in Canaan, which was the name of the land, were very strong. He sent spies into the city of Jericho to find out how to conquer the city. A woman named Rahab offered her home to keep the spies safe while they were in the city. When the king heard about spies in Jericho, he sent soldiers to capture them, but Rahab protected them by hiding them on her roof. Later, she let the spies down over the city wall from her rooftop, and they reported back to Joshua what they had learned about Jericho.

The city of Jericho was surrounded by high walls. Joshua commanded his soldiers to keep silent, not to say a single word until he told them to. He had priests silently carry the ark of the covenant around the city one time. The next morning, seven priests carrying seven trumpets led a march around the city walls again. This time they blew their trumpets as they marched, followed by the ark of the covenant and surrounded by soldiers to guard them. They did this for six days.

On the seventh day, they marched around the city again, but on this seventh day they repeated their march seven times. On the seventh time around, the seven priests blew a long blast on the seven trumpets and Joshua commanded everyone to SHOUT!

"The Lord has given us the city," Joshua cried out. The trumpets blew and the soldiers shouted, and the walls around the city of Jericho came tumbling down. They charged in and took over the city. They rescued Rahab, who had helped them, so that she would be safe from the battle. They destroyed the city and conquered the people there and the people of Israel began to make their home in the promised land.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* arr. by Howard Helvey  
Men's Quartet

**SERMON**

***The Tumblin' Walls***  
Rev. Rachael Warner

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Just a Little Talk with Jesus* arr. by Stan Pethel  
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 HYMN**

*The Trees of the Field*

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**

**SUNG BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*The Happy Trumpeter* by Gordon Young

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