

MISSION SUNDAY

OR

Stock the Food Pantry Sunday or Evangelism and Justice Sunday

Evangelism and justice are key elements of Christian discipleship that cannot be separated.

PRELUDE	Rising	Paul Baloche
WELCOME	Grace Wallace, COS Coordinator	
INTRO	Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COS Spiritual Formation Director	

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE (select verses from Psalm 89)

Leader: I will sing of the Lord's great love forever.

All: I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever;

that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of all ministry;

love and understanding go before you.

Blessed are they who have learned to worship you;

who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.

OPENING PRAYER (adapted from *Anglican Prayer Book of New Zealand*)

Leader: Eternal Spirit, Source of all that is and ever shall be,

may knowledge of your holiness inspire us,

may peace and justice be our way on earth.

**All: May we find enough bread for all to share today,
and may the hurts we cause be forgiven as we forgive.**

Help us to be strong when life overwhelms us,

and may your love be present in our love for others

as we invite others to share in the gifts you have given.

Be with us now as we ask your blessings on our ministry

(*name the ministry or outreach program*). **Amen.**

HYMN	All Who Hunger	TFWS 2126
-------------	-----------------------	------------------

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 14:12-23 (select verses)**

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

REFLECTION MOMENT (*the written reflections are available if you want them—just ask Grace*)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Leader: Let us therefore pray for the Lord's richest blessings on this Ministry [name ministry] and those who labor for it, saying:

All: Lord, teach us to serve our sisters and brothers.

Almighty God, for our sake, your Son was poor and came not to be served but to serve.
Lord, teach us to serve our sisters and brothers.

You want all people to share in the blessings you have given us. Encourage the hearts of those who serve and lead this ministry with the strength of your Holy Spirit, that they may have visions and blessings in abundance to minister in new ways in this community, to be the love of Christ and be your presence on earth as in heaven.

Lord, teach us to serve our sisters and brothers.

O Lord our God, in you every good work has its beginning. Bless this building and all who minister through it with your eternal presence. Grant that all that we do and say may be for your glory and for the good of this community; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, teach us to serve our sisters and brothers. Amen.

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 22:2

On either side of the river is the tree of life...and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

REFLECTION MOMENT *(the written reflections are available if you want them—just ask Grace)*

HYMN

As A Fire Is Meant For Burning

TFWS 2237

PRAYER

[This prayer has actions that go with it – lifting up hands, placing hands on our hearts. Please join in as you are able, so that we can engage with our prayers.]

Leader: Lord God, we pray for your church. We raise our hands up to you [*lift hands up*] and ask for your strength in being part of your church... in this community and throughout the world...

All: Lord God, we pray for your guidance for our world. Whatever we do and wherever we go it is you who guides us. We pray for your wisdom in the world... and for all who strive to make the world a better place... more like you...

We pray for your love in our community and in our hearts [*place hand on heart*], we pray that you keep us full in understanding and compassion. We pray for our local community... for our neighbors and friends... and for all those in need of a helping and loving hand...

Holy and Gracious God, hear our prayers. Amen.

BLESSING OF FOOD PANTRY OR OTHER MINISTRY

Give thanks to the Lord.

Sing praises to the Lord, sing praises forever.

For God satisfies the thirsty,
and fills the hungry with good things.

God clothes the naked, and shelters the lost.

Give thanks to the Lord.

**We sing praises to the Lord,
and serve the Lord in all things, today and always.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of all blessings whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts and the vision of those who bring forth ministries with our community.

Today we dedicate our ministry [name of ministry] and praise you for the fellowship of faithful witnesses who will make this holy work for the blessing of this church and this community.

We pray that all who seek welcome here will find love and understanding and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

We Are the Church

UMH 558

[You can invite local school choir or children's choir to sing]

Sending Forth & Blessing

Leader: We are sent out into the world to continue to worship God and engage in God's mission. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and in the company of Jesus Christ,

All: May we be anointed with God's Spirit,

as we bring good news to the poor,

proclaim release to the captives,

and let the oppressed go free.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

Resources:

<https://progressivechristianity.org/tcpc-weekly-liturgy/the-lords-prayer/>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/special-sundays/mission-sunday/>

Creation Justice Ministries: www.creationjustice.org/