

**Saturday Gathering  
A CELEBRATION OF HARVEST & COMMUNION**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS** Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

**INTRODUCTION** Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

**\*HYMN**

**“We Gather Together”**

**UMH 131**

**GREETING**

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge people with equity  
and guide all the nations upon the earth.

**All: Let all the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.**

Leader: The earth has brought forth its harvest;  
may God bless us and all creation.

**All: Let all the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.**

**INVOCATION**

**Most gracious God, we come to worship you in gladness.**

**We come into your presence singing your praises.**

**We bless you for the beauty of earth, sky and sea.**

**We thank you for blessing the workers who plow the field and sow the seed.**

**And now we give thanks for the harvest that you provide.**

**Bless us as we worship and praise your name. Amen.**

**SEED OFFERINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**

**SCRIPTURE READING 1**

**Matthew 13:3-7**

<sup>3</sup>He told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

**SEED FOR REFLECTION**

**Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples**

**SCRIPTURE READING 2**

**Luke 13:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why

should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup> He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

**SEED FOR REFLECTION**      **Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples**

**SCRIPTURE READING 3**      **Matthew 13:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> And then he put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

**SEED FOR REFLECTION (reading and prayer with silent moment)**

God of the harvest,

What is the seed you have planted in me

that I must bring to fruit or pass my life in emptiness?

What is this gift you have given me that I must in turn pass on or it will fester in me?

What is it you are asking of me

that I must do or I will never know wholeness?

I ask, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*(silent moment)*

**\*HYMN**      **"All Creatures of Our God and King"**

**UMH 62, verses 1, 2, 4**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Thank you, Creator of the universe, for the people gathered with us today.

**Thank you for the plants and animals that we use as food and medicine.**

Thank you for the natural world where we find food and shelter.

**Thank you for the ability to use these gifts for the good of the world.**

May we respect the life of all you have made.

**May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need,**

**and may we use our strength to help those who need us. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**      **"Let Us Break Bread Together"**

**UMH 618**

***Those in person should come forward to get communion cups during the hymn***

**AN ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love God, and who want to learn to love more.

Come, not because I invite you: it is the Lord who calls us here.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

As we share this sacrament of communion, let us share our thanks to God.

For this time and this place and those around us, we say thank you God,  
**Thank you, God.**

For our worship and your love for us, thank you God,  
**Thank you, God.**

So now, in gratitude, we join our voices with those of the Church on earth and in heaven:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God, for us you were born, for us you healed, preached, taught and showed the way to heaven; for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again.

Our hands are empty, our hearts are sometimes full of other things. We are not fit to gather up the crumbs from under your table. But with you is mercy and the power to change. And so, we offer ourselves to you as our harvest offering, and we declare the mystery of our faith:

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

#### **BLESSING**

As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and juice that they may become for us your body, healing, forgiving and making us whole, and that we may become for you, your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes. Amen.

#### **BREAKING THE BREAD**

On the night on which Jesus was betrayed, he sat at supper with his disciples. While they were eating, he took a piece of bread, and said a blessing, broke it and gave it to them with these words, "This is my body given for you that you may have new life. Do this to remember me."  
*(lift bread)*

**Look, here is love coming to us in the bread of life.**

*Break and eat bread*

#### **LIFTING THE CUP**

Later he took a cup of wine and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, a new relationship for you with God. Drink this to remember me."  
*(lift cup)*

**Behold, this is the cup poured out for us and our forgiveness.**

*Drink*

#### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Baskets are passed for empty cups*

#### **THE PEACE AFTER COMMUNION**

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you now,

**And also with you.**

Let us share this peace wherever we go.

**\*HYMN**      **“You Are the Seed” (Sois la Semilla)**

**UMH 583, verse 1**

**\*BLESSING**

May God who supplies seeds to sow and bread to eat supply us with all we need to produce a rich harvest today and everyday. Amen.

**And may the blessing of God,  
Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, remain on us,  
and be made known through us,  
now and always. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

**SOURCES:**

Service adapted from:

“Ruth’s Harvest: Worship resources for Harvest” by Tim Alred, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Pubs., 2013).

Prayers adapted from:

*Book of Worship* for Thanksgiving Day & General Prayers;

"Harvest" by Simon Taylor in *Acorns and Archangels* (UK: Wild Goose, 2009; [www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com)).

*A Wee Worship Book*, by Wild Goose Worship Group, (Glasgow: Wild Goose, 1999).