

# *Twin Towers United Methodist Church*

*Sunday, September 17, 2023 | 9:30 AM*

## **Prelude: “Dona Nobis Pacem”**

*Lucca Troutman, Anne Aldridge*

## **Welcome**

## **Call to Worship**

**Opening Hymn: “Come to the Table” W&S 3168**

## **Opening Prayer**

*Florida Afeaki*

## **Children’s Moment**

## **Scripture Reading: Romans 14:1-12 MSG**

Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

2-4 For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ’s table, wouldn’t it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn’t eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God’s welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

5 Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

6-9 What’s important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God’s sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you’re a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It’s God we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That’s why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

10-12 So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

“As I live and breathe,” God says,  
“every knee will bow before me;  
Every tongue will tell the honest truth  
that I and only I am God.”

So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

**READER:** This is the word of God for the people of God.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon: Come to the Table of Peace**

*Pastor Akesa Po'oi Fakava*

**Hymn of Response:** “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” TFWS 2171

**New Member Recognition:** **Welcome Finau Heuifanga Afeaki**

## **Prayers of the People**

As joys and concerns are lifted, response:

Leader: Loving God

**People: We lift our hearts to you.**

## **The Lord's Prayer (in Unison)**

*Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever and ever. Amen*

## **Offering**

<https://twintowersumc.org/give>

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving (in Unison)**

*We make our offerings, small and large, with the hope and confidence that all we do, all we offer all we say, all we think, and all we hope, will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of Your love, Your justice, Your healing, and Your reign in Jesus' name, Amen.*

**Closing Hymn:** “Let There Be Peace on Earth” UMH 431

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Lucca Troutman, Anne Aldridge*

**Thank You**