Holding Fast to Harmony

September 6th, 2020

**Chimes**

**Greeting**

L: We are standing on holy ground.

**P: All those who have gone before us have witnessed to the love of God.**

L: We are challenged to be people of loving service

**P: Lord, open our hearts and spirits to accept the call to serve you by helping others.**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church**

* Announcements
* Holy Conversations update

**\*Invitation to Worship**

L: We gather as a community of compassion and hope.

**P: Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly.**

L: By this caring and sharing we will be known as followers of Jesus.

**P: By our example others may be led to lives of peace.**

L: Lord, open our hearts and minds this day to your word.

**P: Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** The Servant Song TFWS #2222

**\*Opening Prayer**

From all our life’s pathways, you have called us to this place, O Lord. Be with us as we listen for your word and seek your ways. Guide our steps and guard our lives that we may serve you more effectively in this broken world. AMEN.

**Special Music** Owen Lovejoy

**Scripture Romans 12:9-21**

 **Response:**

L: The word of God for the people of God.

 **P: Thanks be to God!**

**Message** Holding Fast to Harmony

**\*Response** They Will Know We Are Christians TFWS #2223

**Holy Communion**

* *Introduction*
* *Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

**God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We have faltered in our service to you. We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen; we condemn before we make any attempt to understand. Our lives are in turmoil and we confess that we have turned away from you.  It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us and our actions become based on those fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion. Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others who were rejected by “polite” society. Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope for those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope. Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. In Jesus’ Name, we pray.  AMEN.**

* *Words of Assurance*
* *Words of Institution (Remembering the Last Supper)*
* *Lord’s Prayer:* ***Our Father, which 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***
* Sharing our Joys and Concerns

**Offering**

* *Offertory Sentence:*

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

* *Offertory*
* *Doxology*
* *Offertory Prayer:*

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.

**\*Closing Hymn** Let There Be Peace on Earth UMH #431

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**