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voting rights crusader p.9

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for *Renew Program* residents, p.10

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Weekly Newsletter Week of July 18, 2021

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

M a k i n g G o d ' s W e l c o m e K n o w n

This Week:

Sunday, July 18

- 9:00 Worship leader preparation
- 10:00 Worship, Rev. Matt Prinz preaching
- 11:00 Join us for coffee, refreshments and conversation on the lawn and throughout the campus
- 11:15 Food Ministry lunch preparation in the kitchen, led by Bill Coburn. Sunday lunch preparation consists of sack lunches given out on Sundays and preparation for Monday's meal
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 12:30 Food Ministry Lunch Service

Monday, July 19

- 10:00 Food Ministry lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 12:00 Food Ministry lunch service

Tuesday, July 20

- 11:00 Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 7:00 Session (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 21

- 7:00 Bible Study - Acts of Apostles (Zoom)

Thursday, July 22

- 11:00 Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.

Friday, July 23

- 12:00 ReCares equipment distribution
New volunteers are always welcome.

Squeamish about returning to worship in-person? Ushers are here to help



First Church ushers met last week to consider how best to take care of the congregation during it's first Sunday back in the sanctuary. "I want to make sure everyone knows where to sit and feels comfortable," said usher Dorrie Dodge, speaking of concerns some may have about COVID and social distancing. Matthew Inadomi baked blueberry muffins to sweeten the conversation. Dorrie worked with Mr. G's Janitorial to number every other pew cushion and have them safely stored away.

The ushers will be at hand, guiding the congregation through the parts of the worship service that would ordinarily have close physical proximity. No more queuing up for communion or hugs during passing the peace. Even the offering plate won't be passed. So, thank your ushers for their extra effort at transitioning us back into in-person worship, and give them your full cooperation.

Navdeep Jassal, Long Time Food Ministry Volunteer to Focus on Voting Rights



From the Oakland Post, July 9, 2021
The Post News Group

After living in San Francisco and Oakland for nearly 30 years, Jassal is getting into the thick of the fight for voting rights — in Atlanta, Ga. “I know the work is going to be hard; I know the hours are going to be long, but I’ve never been so sure in my heart that I’m doing the right thing,” Jassal said.

She recently left her job analyzing consumer goods for Post Consumer Brands and is heading to Georgia for the next two months to volunteer for Fair Fight Action, the organization founded by Stacey Abrams to fight voter suppression efforts and make elections more equitable.

The January 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol was a strong call to action for Navdeep Jassal. “It breaks my heart to see

what’s happening in our country,” Jassal said. “So many people sacrificed their lives to win the right to vote; we can’t sit on the sidelines and watch it get taken away.”

“I’ve never been so sure in my heart that I am doing the right thing.”

Jassal has been a committed volunteer in Oakland, preparing and serving food for the hungry with First Church, participating with the Poor People’s Campaign and volunteering for Common Cause and local progressive candidates. She recently volunteered in the campaign of Janani Ramachandran, who will be in the runoff election for the 18th district state assembly seat in August.

Why work with Stacey Abrams? “She’s tenacious and gives more than 100% in everything she does. She includes and treats all people of color with the highest level of respect,” she told the Post.

Jassal read New York Times columnist Charles Blow’s book “The Devil You Know,” to gain insights on how and why she should work shoulder-to-shoulder with Blacks and liberals who are moving to the South to continue the struggle for voting as the path to save democracy.

Her past volunteer experiences include serving as a field organizer for the Equal Rights Amendment Campaign in Iowa and as a participant with Rev. Dr. William Barber’s Poor Peoples Campaign and their Moral Mondays direct action efforts in North Carolina.



First Church to Partner with Cityteam: Provide Temporary Housing for 25 Men

By Chris Weber

An old Victorian hotel sits on Washington Street, it's upper floors covered in 1880's gingerbread. The ground floor storefronts have been replaced with a dining hall, kitchen and meeting room. The hotel's former suites are now home to men enrolled in Cityteam's Renew Program, a residential rehabilitation program whose mission is to "share Christ's unconditional and redemptive love by helping people restore their lives from the grips of homelessness and addiction. Home to Cityteam's Oakland headquarters since the 1950's, the building has seen better days.

Cityteam's Executive Director, Angela Aguilar (herself a graduate of the Renew Program) is leading the Oakland group – technically a church – in a major renovation of their aging facility, bringing some portions of the building up to modern codes. But in order to execute that work, she needed to find homes for the forty men who call the building home for a year.

After considerable deliberation, the Session unanimously agreed to help, offering up use of the Fellowship Hall as a temporary dormitory

from August 1 – October 31. For the late summer and fall, twenty-five men from that program will call the First Church campus home, offering First Church an opportunity to show some hospitality and generosity to its long-term guests. Use of the Hall will be provided "at cost," with reimbursement for facility costs.

The men will eat and sleep in the hall, and may have some lounging time too. But the bulk of their days will be spent either working in service of the community or taking

"The men who are enrolled learn to take care of each other and to instill accountability in each other"

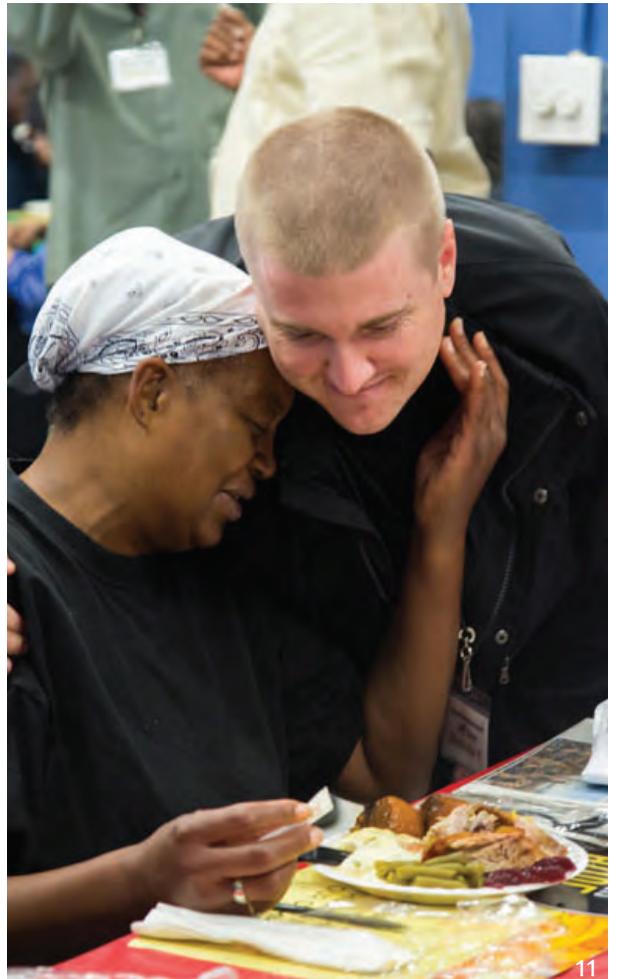
classes. Among the service work the men do in the community is feeding and ministering to others who are themselves still struggling with lack of food and with addiction. Like Aguilar, most of the Cityteam staff, including Renew Program Leader Markku Heikkila are also graduates of the program. Members of the congregation have been invited to participate in their morning devotional time, which will be weekdays at 9:15



The Renew Program enrolls men and women who struggle with addiction and homelessness for a full year (the program's women will not be housed at First Church). The program is divided in half, with senior enolles (more then six months in) shepherding newer enrolles. Graduates of the program also supervise the ministry in either "intern" or staff capacity. The program has a fairly regimented schedule, with bible study and prayer rounding out a day spent working.

"We have about a 90 percent success rate," said Angela Aguilar of the program's effectiveness. "The men who are enrolled learn to take care of each other and to instill accountability with each other." As part of the agreement for staying at First Church, the men will be cleaning the Hall and kitchen as part of their daily discipline.

First Church members are invited to get to know the men, to visit during meals, and to look for ways to provide spiritual support, encouragement and even mentorship. Gay Plair Cobb will serve as First Church liaison, with support from Dorothy Dugger.



Session Envisions Project to Honor Civil Rights Hero Fred Korematsu

“Fred Korematsu was such a humble man,” said treasurer Rose Mary Richmond, speaking of the man she knew who helped count the offerings on Monday mornings with his wife Catherine. “A humble man with a huge legacy,” said Rich Jones, who also knew the former First Church member.

Fred Korematsu has been honored by Bill Clinton with a Presidential Medal of Freedom and by the States of California and Virginia with a state holiday on Sunday, January 30. Born in Oakland, and a long-time member and elder of First Church in his later years, Fred was a civil rights activist who fought first against Japanese internment during the Second World War, and later against restrictions of civil liberties that followed the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

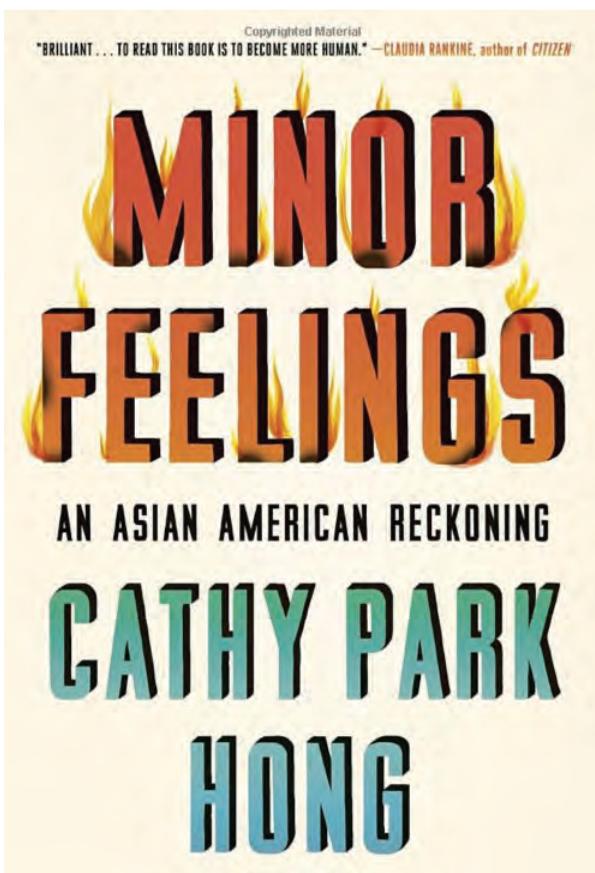


The Session has created a special committee to examine re-dedicating the church’s Reception Room in his honor: Korematsu Hall (exact name to be determined). The Committee won’t just be focused on renaming the room. “We are going to develop a proposal to share with the Korematsu Family, and hopefully work together on a project which not only honors Fred the man, but continues his life’s work,” said Facility Manager Chris Weber.

The Committee will meet the second week of August (exact date to be determined). Any member who is interested in participating in the work of this committee may be a part. The Committee will focus on these areas:

- A new name for the room.
- Improvements to the space that will help to make it more usable by the community.
- Marketing and invitations to non-profit groups with missions in civil liberties and racial justice to use the space for their own work.
- Fundraising

The effort is expected to take more than a year. Contact Chris Weber for more information.



Building the Beloved Community Book Group to Discuss Asian Identity and Expectations

Suzie Inadomi will lead the congregation through a discussion of an essay from Cathy Park Hong's latest collection, *Minor Feelings, An Asian American Reckoning*.

Hong describes her work as “built from the sediments of everyday racial experience and the irritant of having one’s perception of reality constantly questioned or dismissed.”

Copies of the book can be found on the new book stand in the main corridor. Please leave a payment of \$18 at the office or with a church staff member or Rose Mary Richmond. The discussion of Hong’s work (and our own experiences) will held on July 28 at 7 pm. Whether the discussion will be on Zoom or in person remains to be seen.

What To Do With an Old Piano?

First Church hosts five choral organizations, each with multiple weekly rehearsals scattered throughout the campus. Music directors from each group agreed: the Fellowship Hall piano should be replaced instead of re-tuned. Luckily David Morales of Cantare Con Vivo found a generous donor, Robert Cox, formerly of the Cantare Chorale. Cox provided First Church with a lovingly maintained baby grand piano.

As for the old piano? We’ve been rolling out in front of the cloister on sunny days. Passers-by with some musical ability have stopped to play. Classical, blues and ragtime have made the lawn a festive place (if not fully in tune). The final fate of this instrument will be decided later.



Congregation Invited to Show God's Presence Through Photography Art



First Church members are being asked to participate in a special art project, that seeks to express where we found God during the seventy weeks of our time apart. The Reception Room has been turned into an art gallery, where twenty-six matted frames await your responses.

Visual mediums, like photography, have the advantage of being able to express emotion and spiritual yearnings, reveal inner monologues, and explain complex subjects in ways that words on their own seldom can. It is also a way to share our stories, strengthen our community, engage spirituality, spark conversations and open our eyes to new ways of learning about God.

As you look to respond in a visual way about the way COVID has shaped you, your family/friends, our faith and larger community, consider what images would express any of the following:

Think through this season of the pandemic and how the virus disrupted your daily life.

- What were you missing? School, worshipping together, sports, family time, social plans, vacations or anything else?
- What effect did this crisis had on your own mental and emotional health?
- What changes, big or small, positive or negative, did you notice in the world around you?

Now think through where you saw or experienced God in the pandemic.

- Where did you find comfort and peace?
- Where and how did God meet you in the last year?
- Did you see God in scripture, music, prayer and meditation, in creation and the natural world around you?
- Did you continue to experience God through worship via Zoom?

What image could represent where you saw, felt, heard, tasted, experienced the comfort, security, hope, peace or goodness of God?

Photo submissions must be digital. You can scroll through the photos in your phone or head out and take something new. All photos will be displayed in a square (so cropping may be required). Email your photo submissions to Pastor Matt. Entries are due August 8.

Coming up

- **Women's Circle:** Tuesday July 27, 7 pm
- **BBC Book Group:** Wednesday, July 28, 7 pm
- **Cityteam Move-in:** Sunday, Aug 1, 8 am

Need Something Printed in *Temple Tidings*?

The First Church Communications Team meets every other week to discuss events and the life of the church. If you have a special event coming up, contact Pastor Matt, Chris Weber, Shawn Jones or Anne Margaret Manay. Want to write short article about something special happening at church or in your own life? Have a poem or a photo you would like to share? See any errrrors? Contact Chris Weber.

Mind the Painting!

Several rooms throughout campus have ongoing painting projects. Your patience is appreciated.



Elders

David Alexander,
Erick Bevington, Facilities, Finance
Linda Carter, Finance, Worship & Music
Gay Plair Cobb, Mission & Social Justice
Dorothy Dugger, Food Ministry, Facilities
Anna Lisa Fear, Personnel
Cassandra Flipper, Personnel
Henry Gardner, Personnel
Suzie Inadomi, Building the Beloved Community

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer

Deacons

Pauline Ahanotu, Martha Bauman, Diane Hill,
Chris Kovach, Lorraine Provost,
Rose Mary Richmond, Judy Rowan, Carol Zell,
Julia Marquez, Moderator

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor
matt@firstchurchoakland.org
510.488.3812
Office Hours: Mon-Th, 8 am - 4 pm
Friday mornings: surfing by appt.

Aaron Nee, Director of Music & Organist
aaron@aaronnee.com
510.488.3804

Chris Weber, Interim Facility Manager
chris@firstchurchoakland.org
805.234.5631

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian
510.290.9677

Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer, office volunteer
rosemary@firstchurchoakland.org
510.488.3805

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper
joan@firstchurchoakland.org
510.488.3805
Office Hours: Mon, 10 am - 3 pm

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Content reviewed by Communications Team: Pastor Matt Prinz, Chris Weber, Shawn Jones, A.M. Manay
Writing by Chris Weber,
Copy editing by Anne Margaret Manay & Dorrie Dodge
Photos by Linda Carter & Chris Weber

Weekly Food Ministry Update

By Bill Coburn

Signe delivered 73 meals with her hubby Brian consisting of lamb cassoulet, some pork, and some vegetarian, with salads and desserts. The lamb especially went over big. We were glad we had vegetarian -- we don't get much call for them, but one man asked us for this specifically.

It was a rough day for volunteers. As you know, we serve some of the most needy, desperate, and ill in the community, so it's not surprising we found one of our regulars with an untreated infection literally appearing near death when we brought his meal. We contacted his father with his permission, and he helped him. Unfortunately, this man's troubles are an ongoing issue, but our support is appreciated. The Food Ministry does so much more than feed people.

Some delivery days its apparent others are also delivering meals in our area-- even if we don't see them. This was such a day, so not everyone was hungry, which gave us an opportunity to go to locations we normally don't where we met new, hungry faces to add to our route.

People are often quite grateful; "God bless you" is heard frequently as we are walking away. But to hear it from people who appear gruff and hardened still catches us off guard, and is

especially moving. We know we are connecting to peoples' hearts with meals, and that it may be the first time that day they've been treated like human beings from anyone outside the houseless population. We know this connection and acknowledgment helps sustain them too almost as much as food and water.

It was an emotional day witnessing much hardship and suffering, but it bolsters us to know some healing was brought care of the Food Ministry. Thank you for allowing us to be of service.

Our Sunday team was generous in preparing so much of our Monday meal: Mary, Ann, Teri, Pauline, Bonnie, Tiffany P, Penny, Victor, Peter and Navdeep. Additionally we had a lot of extra foods which were generously distributed at the gate.

For Sunday we served: BLT sandwiches, egg salad, chips fruits, and cookies. Carmelo and Jazmine distributed. Both days socks were distributed on the street and clothing at the church gate. A couple of positive comments overheard: "These were Super Sandwiches" and "The BLT sandwiches were amazing."

We thank the volunteers: Rajiv, Dorothy, Devon, Steve, Bryan, Peter, Paul and Henry for their efforts. We completely filled all refrigerators to capacity and more. Everything was used.

First Church is proud to support the work of these COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Cantare Con Vivo
- Cityteam Renew Program
- College Awareness
- Food Not Bombs
- Habitat For Humanity, East Bay Silicon Valley
- Oakland Early Head Start Preschool
- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
- Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs
- Quinteto Latino
- ReCares
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale

This place was made with you in mind!



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

Welcome Home

*Making God's
welcome known*

Welcome to this time of intergenerational praise and worship.

- Please fill out a **Prayer Card** if you would like prayer from our pastor and deacons.
- Please also fill out a **Welcome Card** so we can become acquainted with you.
- Ushers can guide you to the **nursery** for children age three years and younger.
- You may also make use of the **Parent Corner** at the rear sanctuary entrance.
- Need help hearing? Ushers can provide **hearing devices** to assist you.

Help us keep everyone comfortable as we get used to worshipping in person.

- If you have not received a vaccine yet, please consider getting one.
- While you are indoors, please continue to wear a mask, even while singing. Worship leaders will not wear masks.
- Please continue to social distance - you may sit close to friends if you are invited to do so. Sit only in pews with cushions.
- Greetings with touch can be nice - but check that it's okay first.
- Worship leaders will provide special instructions for Passing the Peace and Communion.
- Refreshments will be served outdoors on the lawn following the service.
- The Sanctuary, Session Room, Reception Room and Courtyard will all remain open following the service for you to spread out and enjoy conversation.

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland is a **More Light** faith family, on a journey toward becoming the **Beloved Community**. We welcome and affirm persons of every age, national origin, racial and ethnic heritage, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, physical ability and spiritual leaning.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Director of Music & Organist: Aaron Nee

Liturgist: Lorraine Provost

Godly Play Story Teller: Di Pagel

Godly Play Door Keeper: Dorrie Dodge

Special Music: Shawn Jones, John Doppke

Communion Preparation: Martha Bauman & Diane Hill

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Streamin & Recording Suport: Diane Hill, Linda Carter & Anne Margaret Manay

Fellowship Refreshments: Julia Marquez

ORDER of SERVICE

PRELUDE

Menuet Gothique from Suite Gothique, Op. 25

Léon Boëllmann

GREETING & SHARING COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 48

One: When winds tear into our vessels,

All: God's grace will be our guide.

One: When insecurities mount up within our souls,

All: God's grace will be our guide.

One: When hardships weaken our resolve,

All: God's grace will be our guide.

One: When insults rip and slander stains,

All: God's grace will be our guide.

One: When vulnerability saps our faith,

All: God's grace will be our guide.

Please stand as you are able

HYMN : 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

CALL to CONFESSION

From Mark 6

All: Holy Creator, we have refused to give our neighbors the honor they deserve.
We have rejected others, as Jesus was rejected before us.
Status drives us.
Gossip lures us.
Reputations gain more traction than the entirety of the person in front of us.
We chose chaos over kindness, and disconnection over spiritual bonds.
May our hearts repent, returning to your voice.
May our souls reconnect, returning to our neighbor.
May our minds renew, returning to the ones you created us to be.
May your grace abound.

Silent Reflection

You are invited into a time of silent, personal prayer

One: In the name Jesus Christ we pray

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

ASSURANCE of GOD'S GRACE

Message of Assurance

Song of Response

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Paul Vasile

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen!**

(repeat one time)

PASSING the PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace

Greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace

The children are led to Godly Play

MUSICAL OFFERING

Élégie

Edouard Flament,
Shawn Jones, Bassoon

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of joys and concerns

As each prayer request is shared:

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Please fill out a Prayer Card if you would like the pastor, deacons or congregation to remember you or someone you know in prayer. You can place the card in the offering plate during The Offering.

Pastoral Prayer

All: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

READING of SCRIPTURE

Mark 6: 7-19

One: Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” ¹⁵But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

One: This is the Word of the LORD

All: Thanks be to God

S E R M O N

Rev. Matt Prinz

R E S P O N S E t o t h e W O R D

Pastor Matt will lead the congregation in reflection on the reading and sermon.

T H E L O R D ' S S U P P E R

Invitation to the table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Institution

Sharing the Holy Meal

Please come forward as the ushers allow. Communion is alcohol and gluten free.

Instructions will be provided for social distancing.

Communion Music

Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees

Sung by John Doppke

T H E O F F E R I N G

Invitation

Offertory

Donations, Welcome Cards & Prayer Cards can be placed in the offering plate.

Please stand as you are able

Song of Response

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

S E N D I N G P R A Y E R

Honoring the work and mission of Navdeep Jassal

Please stand as you are able

H Y M N : 6 1 1

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

B E N E D I C T I O N

P O S T L U D E

Toccata from Organ Symphonie No. 5

Charles-Marie Widor