

# Yoked to Grace

## Communion Sunday – July 5, 2026

### MEDITATION

*“Until you make the unconscious conscious,  
it will direct your life, and you will call it fate.” –Carl Jung*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING WORDS

L: And now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

### PRELUDE

“Come Unto Him”

*Music: James P. Dunn*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Melessa Fox, Deacon*

L: Come, all who are weary.

**All: We come carrying burdens, seen and unseen.**

L: Come, all who are struggling.

**All: We come with our hopes and our shortcomings.**

L: Come, all who long for rest.

**All: We come seeking peace for our souls.**

L: Jesus says, “Come to me.”

**All: We come to the One who walks beside us.**

L: Come just as you are—saint and sinner, beloved and imperfect.

**All: We come, trusting in grace. Let us worship God.**

### \*SONG OF REJOICING

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” 2x

*In Pew*

### REPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

*Melessa Fox, Deacon*

L: God of grace, we come before you as we are bringing our whole selves into this sacred space.

**All: We bring our joys and our worries, our strengths and our struggles, our hopes and our regrets.**

L: Some of us come feeling light. Some come carrying heavy burdens. Some are weary in body, mind, or spirit. You know us completely and love us fully.

**All: When we feel frustrated by our shortcomings, remind us of your grace. When shame weighs heavily upon us, lift our eyes toward mercy. When we feel alone in our struggles, draw us close to your steady presence.**

L: Help us to rest in your love today. Quiet the noise within us. Ease the burdens we carry. Teach us what it means to walk beside Jesus, yoked to grace.

**All: May this hour renew us, strengthen us, and remind us that we never walk alone. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"*

*Black 459*

**WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

*Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director*

**ANTHEM**

*"We are the Hands of Christ"*

*Words: John Parker, Music: Joel Raney  
Choir*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Romans 7:15-25, p. 191 & Matthew 11:25-30, p. 14

*Melessa Fox, Deacon & Cliff Moore, Lay Reader*

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION**

*"Yoked to Grace"*

*Rev. Christina Williams*

**RESPONSIVE HYMN**

*"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

*Insert*

**PASTORAL PRAYER (Based on Psalm 86) & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys or concerns out loud during the prayers of the people. Please respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*sung*)

*In Pew*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*"How Firm a Foundation" Words: John Rippon  
Music: Welsh tune, "The Ash Grove", Arranged: Hal H. Hopson  
Choir*

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

### **\*UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Generous God, everything we have is a gift from you. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and love. Use them to lighten burdens, bring comfort to the weary, and share your grace with a hurting world. May what we offer today—our gifts, our service, and our hearts—help others know they do not walk alone. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

### **THE SACREMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*See Insert*

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*Black 42*

### **\*BENEDICTON**

### **SUNG BENEDICTION**

“You are My All in All”

*Words/Music: Dennis Jernigan  
Choir*

### **POSTLUDE**

“You'll Never Walk Alone”

*Music: Richard Rodgers*

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

### **Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!**

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Lay Reader, Cliff Moore; Choir, Alan King, Clifford Moore, Chris Polloni, Malcolm McDonald, Meg Tivey, Joyce Kenneally, Hal Leeds, Kay Clark, Linda Thomas; Hospitality, Self-serve Juice and cookies

**Leading worship today:** Rev. Christina Williams, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music Director; Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director, Melessa Fox, Deacon

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## NEW HERE TODAY?

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!  
To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.*

1. **Order of Worship:** *\*An asterisk is an invitation to stand if you are able.  
**Bold text** indicates speaking in unison.*
2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children are welcomed into their PraySpace for various activities and to help with communion.*
3. **Take Two:** *This adult faith formation group meets after worship every other Sunday with Lisa Allen. Join the conversation next Sunday in the small classroom.*
4. **Summer Refreshments & Conversation:** *Gather with us after worship to greet friends and make new ones in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina Williams or Deacon of the day.*

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Music covered under One License #A-728849



**The altar flowers are given by Marsha and Bill Martin in celebration  
of our 250 years of Freedom to Worship.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Communion will be distributed. Grape juice and gluten-free bread are served.*

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

#### RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: O Holy God, we give thanks for your steadfast love that never lets us go. You created us in love and called us good.

**All: Even when we lose our way, even when we fall into patterns that wound ourselves or others, your grace remains.**

L: Again and again, you call us back—not with shame, but with mercy. Not with condemnation, but with love.

**All: We thank you for Jesus who walked among us, welcomed the weary, lifted the burdened, and offered rest to troubled souls.**

L: In him, we see your compassion. In him, we know your forgiveness. In him, we discover that grace is always greater than our failures.

**All: With gratitude and hope, we praise your holy name. Amen.**

### WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

### SHARING BREAD AND CUP

#### UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank you for this sacred meal. You have fed us with grace, met us with mercy, and reminded us that we are deeply loved. When we feel burdened, help us to remember we are not alone. When we feel weary, help us to rest in your presence. When we stumble, help us to trust in your grace. Send us now into the world strengthened by this meal, ready to walk with Christ and ready to help carry the burdens of others. May we go forth yoked to grace, grounded in love, and sustained by hope. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## 182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.