



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Access Sunday
October 11, 2026 10:30 a.m.



Access Sunday is an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to church community, and the joys of being in accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the USA live with some form of disability, and almost everyone else will develop one at some point in their life. Let us honor and celebrate disability wisdom, creativity, and brilliance. Let us expand our notions of God and theology. And let us call one another into greater access for all.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Christ the Life of All the Living" Anton Wilhelm Leupold

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *by Stephanie Niemela*

One: Accessible, inclusive, multi-sensory God, in celebration of you
and your Creation today, we give thanks for all.

All: We give thanks for people of all experiences, disabilities, and abilities.

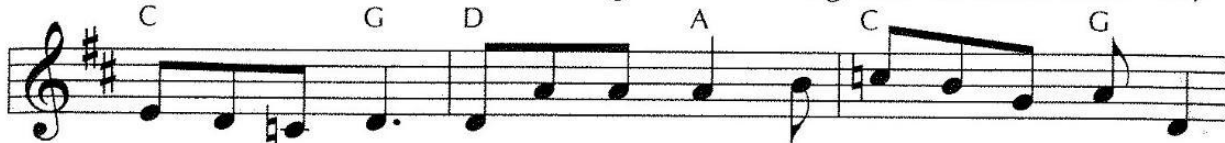
One: God, you are accessible to all. Opening our awareness to you,
together may your Creation be joyful and reflective.

All: Gather us in, welcoming God, in thanksgiving and praise!

*GATHERING HYMN: "Here in This Place" *verses 1-3 only*



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *by Kim Williams*

Holy God, we confess that we have not always been inclusive, even though we try to be.

That when we have observed difference we have failed to marvel at the way that each person we meet is created in your image.

We admit that we have much to learn when it comes to loving our neighbor as we love you and as we love ourselves.

Help us to value one another's humanity over and over and over again. *(silent confession)*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE** *by Kim Williams*

God is with us when we falter and when we fail.

God is with us when we succeed and overcome.

God guides our journey to full inclusion of all God's beloved children.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE:** "Here in This Place" v.4

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:

Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;

Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:1-14 Pew Bible p.803

A Word of God that is still speaking,

thanks be to God.

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" #770 *Glory to God Hymnal*

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble;
 2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;
 3 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers;
 4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;
 5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 here all the world will find a wel-come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 we're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers; I'm gon - na
 Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the
 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

RESPONDING

We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.

LITANY OF BLESSING: "Bodies: Divine, Human, Blessed"

adapted from a liturgy by Bekah Maren Anderson

God, you know the blessings and burdens of bodies.

Your embodiment is beyond human, yet knows what it is to be human.

You sat beneath a tree with Abraham and Sarah.

You burned as a bush, and covered mountains as a cloud.

You walked in the silence before Elijah.

You appeared as wheels and creatures to Ezekiel.

And when you chose to be human, you cried and nursed as an infant.

You walked in the wilderness and the cities.

Your feet were covered in dust and grime, and were washed, as you washed the feet of your friends.

You grew hungry, and thirsty, and weary.

You died in a body, and rose in a body, and the proof of your life were the wounds in your flesh and the breaking of the bread that is you.

We praise you and your many bodies, O God.

And we know that you have blessed our bodies, and all bodies:

Bodies of all races;

bodies of all genders, gender expressions, and relationship orientations;

bodies of all abilities and disabilities, all modes of thinking and knowing and feeling;

bodies of all sizes and shapes.

All bodies are beautiful to you, who made humanity in your image and called us good.

Bless our bodies, for through them we know you.

Bless our bodies, for in them we do your work.

Bless our bodies, for with them we experience suffering, and need your care.

Bless our bodies, for with them we experience joy, and praise your many holy names.

Amen.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Harold DeCou
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

RESPONSE OF PRAISE “We Give You But Your Own” #785 *New Century Hymnal
We give you but your own, whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING

With God’s blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

COMMISSIONING HYMN: “As We Gather At Your Table” #332 *New Century Hymnal
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us now, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Toccata on St. Anne” Gordon Young

Worship Endnotes

Prayers and litany adapted from the UCC Disabilities Ministries

Access Sunday 2026 resource.

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To learn more about UCC Disabilities Ministries, visit their website: www.uccdm.org