

The Way Forward: Love As Christ

Opening Worship and Service of Holy Communion

*The Arkansas Annual Conference
Thursday, June 19, 2014, 7:00 P.M.
Rogers, AR*

ENTRANCE

In the midst of our life in the world, we are called into God's presence.

WELCOME Reverend Carness Vaughan

CALLING THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP Wayne Warmack

TIME FOR GATHERING *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* (Arr. Travis)

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison) Reverend Carness Vaughan
(AWA 2014)

Holy One,

You have called us to become vessels of your love – living examples of your peace in this harsh and fearful world. We hear your call to share the good news of Christ's love: in deed and in truth, in acts of justice and righteousness, in words of mercy and compassion. For this we were created. For this we are called to serve. May our lives shine the light of love – the light of that first moment of creation, the light of servant love. Go with us; live through us; and stay with us, now and forevermore. Amen.

*HYMN *Lift High the Cross* UMH 159
Arr. Joel Raney

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison) Reverend Judy Van Hoose
(AWA 2014)

Creator God,

What are we that you should take notice of us; who are we that you should love us so completely? You have created us from the stuff of stars, from the building blocks of the universe. You have given us a world in which to live, a home in which to breathe and grow. How carelessly and callously we have treated your creation and one another. In our arrogance, we have lost sight of the goodness you infused into this amazing existence. Help us hear your voice anew: in the simplicity of a child's laughter, in the sound of the wind moving through the trees. As we gaze at the majesty of the moon and the stars and the wonders of the heavens, may we see your purpose in our lives. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE Reverend Judy Van Hoose

*GREETING Reverend Judy Van Hoose

*HYMN *God, Whose Love Is Reigning Over Us* UMH 100, vs. 1
(Tune: Beach Spring)

Please be seated.

INTRODUCTION OF CONFERENCE PREACHER Bishop Gary E. Mueller

MUSICAL OFFERING

Take Me to the King
Elisabeth Russell and Kiauanna Johnson, Dancers
Grace United Methodist Church, Conway

(Tamela Mann)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*In awe and wonder, praise and confession, we are spoken to by God;
called afresh to be God's people; given encouragement, wisdom, forgiveness, and healing.*

SCRIPTURE READING

A Reading from Psalm 8
(Read in the Ga dialect spoken by the Ga people who reside in Accra, the capital city of Ghana.)

ANTHEM

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name
Director, Kerry Johnston

(Tom Fettke)

SERMON TEXT

Luke 10:25-37

SERMON

"Love As Christ"

Reverend Jorge Acevedo

OFFERTORY

Festive Praise
Director, Fenner Russell

(Allen Pote)

Tonight's offering is designated for the Retired Clergy Fund.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94
(Tune: LAST UNS ERFREUREN)

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Narrator: "It's a disappointing moment...but to experience what Christ has done."

Bishop Gary E. Mueller: This table is a place of love; a place of mercy and forgiveness. All who love Christ and truly repent of their sin, are welcome to eat at this table.

Music Responses from: "Lord, Have Mercy" (Music, Merkel/Arr. Keveren)

Solo: Jesus, I've forgotten the words that you have spoken; promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim. With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom. Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

Music Response: *Congregation and Choir*

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Bishop Gary E. Mueller: We give thanks to you...we praise your name:

Spoken in unison: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Creator God of all the mysteries of life.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Bishop Mueller: You are holy...by water and the Spirit.

Narrator: Bread is a very common food...Paul writes, "but Christ in me."

Bishop Mueller: On the night... "Do this in remembrance of me."

Music Response: *Congregation and Choir*

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.

Narrator: Some stains just won't come out... There is a fountain.

Bishop Mueller: When the supper was over... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Spoken in unison: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Bishop Gary E. Mueller: Pour out your Holy Spirit...God, now and forever. Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Music Response: *Congregation and Choir*

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.

Narrator: In the gospel stories... Until then...remember.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please respond and receive the Lord's Table as directed by the ushers.

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Love of Christ
Instrumental Duet

(Arr. Jachin Mann)

Breathe
Director, Evy Lamb

(Arr. Derek K. Hakes)

I Love to Tell the Story
Director, Brian Breeding

(Arr. Kornelis)

SENDING FORTH

*Having been fed by God, we are sent back into the world
as people renewed, to love and serve in God's name.*

*HYMN

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

WS 3148
(Mark Miller)

There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place.

You can't see it, but it's there just as precious as the air.

There's a spirit of love in this place.

Refrain:

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

There's a spirit of love in this place.

*BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Bishop Gary E. Mueller

POSTLUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

(Arr. Ham)

*Those who are able may stand.

Hymns are used under agreement with CCLI#795390.

Worship Notes

Bishop Gary E. Mueller, Resident Bishop of the Arkansas Episcopal Area, *Celebrant*
Reverend Jorge Acevedo, Grace Church, Cape Coral, FL, *Conference Preacher*

Liturgists

Reverend Carness Vaughan, Senior Pastor, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Reverend Judy Van Hoose, Pastor of Congregational Care, First United Methodist Church, Springdale.

Worship Design Team and Participants

Acolytes, Marshall and Stephen Hofmann, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Banners, Aaron and Logan Anderson, Brooke Laing, Braden, Hudson, and Mason Sell, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Communion Servers and Ushers, Members of Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Dancers, Elisabeth Russell and Kiauanna Johnson, Grace United Methodist Church, Conway.
Saxophone/Guitar Duet, Jachin Mann, Director of Music Ministries, and Brian Novak, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Organist/Pianist, Jonathan Story, Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville.
Communion Soloist, Kris Mickna, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Communion Narrator, Mary Kay Franklin, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Brian Breeding, Director of Music, First United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Dr. Carl Engmann, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Kerry Johnston, Director of Music Ministries, First United Methodist Church, Springdale.
Evy Lamb, Handbell Director, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Fenner Russell, Director of Classic Music and Worship Ministries, Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville.
Reverend Jeanne Williams, Chair, Annual Conference Worship, First United Methodist Church, Walnut Ridge.
Reverend Les Oliver, Minister of Music and Worship Arts, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers.
Shofar, Wayne Warmack.

UMH, United Methodist Hymnal ~ WS, Worship and Song ~ AWA, Abingdon Worship Annual