



From Sanctified Art

August 1, 2021

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Greeting and Call to Worship

**This space is holy.
This space is special.
God is here.
We are open to possibility.**

Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide

BUMC Sunshine Choir

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you!**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture reading and Doodling

Grab your pen and paper to doodle and write down what comes to you as you hear this scripture.

John 15:9-17 (Common English Bible)

Love each other

⁹ "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷ I give you these commandments so that you can love each other."

Conversation and Connection

Instead of a formal sermon today we will spend the next 30 minutes getting to know one another. Please bring your paper with you as you share with each other.

Conversation Round 1

1. What place feels most like home? What do you love about it?
2. How did you get connected to this faith community? What is one of your favorite memories here?
3. What is one thing that the pandemic brought into your life that you would like to keep or hold onto?
4. What is a hope you have for yourself in the coming year? For your family? For the church? For this city/town?

Conversation Round 2

1. What brings you joy these days?
2. What weighs heavy on you, or causes you grief?
3. What is something you have learned about yourself in the past year?
4. If you could go back in time and teach your younger self one lesson, what would it be?

Conversation Round 3

1. What's your favorite family tradition? Or, what's a tradition you want to start and pass along to those you love?
2. We often talk about "mountain top" experiences in our faith—places where God feels close.
3. Where is a place that you have felt close to God? What was holy about it?
4. Share a key moment in your faith journey. How did that moment shape what you believe today?
5. Who is someone who has been influential in your faith? What impact did they have?

Conversation Round 4

1. Is there a story behind your given name or your surname? If you have a nickname or a chosen name, how is this name meaningful to you?
2. Share a memory related to food—a family recipe, a baking ritual, or a time of breaking bread with loved ones.
3. What is your first memory of grief? What have you learned from your grief?
4. Share a story of a time when you felt the most like yourself.

Reflection and Prayer Wall

We invite you into a time of prayer and reflection. When prompted we invite you to add them to the prayer wall.

Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving w/Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord's 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution and Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Please repeat after me:

God of conversation,

This space is holy.

This space is special.

This space is unique,
because we are fed.

We are seen.

We belong.

Help us remain open to possibility.

Amen.

Blessing