

FIRST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
AT 10:30 a.m. (online)

May 2, 2021

Communion Sunday | Fifth Sunday of Easter

join us “in-person” or “online” at:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc>

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith,
you are welcome at First Community UMC.*

** As an inclusive community, we invite you to sing & confess your faith in the language that you feel comfortable.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you are viewing our service via **Facebook**, please say “hello” and comment, so we may include you in our attendance. If you have joys or concerns to share, please type them in the comments, so we may include you during our “Sharing of Joys and Concerns & Pastoral Prayer.”
- The month of **May** is “**Asian & Pacific American Heritage Month.**” Each Sunday, we will celebrate Asian and Pacific American Heritage during a segment of our service.
- We are seeking **greeters** and **worship leaders** for our **April, May and June Sunday Worship** services. To volunteer, [Sign-Up as Greeter and/or Worship Leader Here](#)
- **Upcoming meetings and events include:**
 - A **Trustees meeting** later today at 1pm [Trustees Meeting Link](#)
 - A **Student Appreciation Celebration** on **Sunday, May 16** following Sunday service. We will gather in the outdoor play area for a potluck picnic to recognize the (7) seven students who have called First Community home this past semester. To attend, [RSVP here](#).
- Now that we have returned to “in person” worship, our outreach is returning as well. May’s Mini-Mission is “Socks for Sox!” To participate and for info, visit www.firstcommunitymedford.org.
- ***Please remember to pray for our church friends & family.*** Daily prayer reminders can be found below, in our monthly Oasis newsletter and on the church website.
- Due to **COVID Guidelines**, please use the exit door under the bell tower.

Church Staff

Pastor: Cristian De La Rosa
Hours: Mon & Fri 10:00-2:00
Options to Meet: in Church Parlor, by phone or via Zoom
Cell: 540-550-9251 | Email: cdlrosa@bu.edu
To set up a meeting: calendly.com/cdlrosa

Music Director: Luci Rexroad
Pastoral Leadership Intern: Pastor Uchenna Awa

Computer Tech Intern: Ana Maria Rodriguez
Tech Support Intern: Felix Jibrin
Children’s Education Intern: Sandra Barrios
Soloist: Ebiye Seimode

During the week ahead, please pray for these friends:

May 2 – Gabriel & Valerie Donadio
May 3 – Aaron & Laurie Ellies
May 4 – Josette Elysee & Thess Elysee
May 5 – T.J. Elysee & Jo Elysee
May 6 – Heiko Enderling & Judith Aberdeen
May 7 – Jazmine Enderling & Connery Enderling
May 8 – Peg Faulkner
May 9 – Amy Fillebrown & Sara Finley

Church Administrator: Kathy Aluia
Hours: Mon, Thurs & Fri 9:30am-12:30pm
Office: 781-396-5436
Email: office@firstcommunitymedford.org
Website: www.FirstCommunityMedford.org

*Thank you for joining us. Please use these quiet moments
to center yourself and prepare for worship...*

CHURCH BELLS & ALTAR CANDLES

Autumn Lane
Bell Ringer & Acolyte

PRELUDE

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

- *Charles H. Gabriel*
arr. by *Victor Labenske*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dot Seamster
Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: God is the True Vine,
All: And we are the branches.

Leader: Connected to God.
All: Connected to bear fruit!

Leader: Connected to God.
All: Or we wither away.

Leader: Connected to God.
All: Or useless!

Leader: We come to worship God,
who is the True Vine.
**All: God, teach us how to remain connected
so that we might bear good fruit!**

COMMUNAL PRAYER (*in unison*)²

Lord, we would grow with you
New shoots reaching out
Hands stretched upward
Like leaves newly formed
Soaking up your light and warmth
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you
In sunshine and rain
In darkness and light
In cold days and summer days
From Springtime to Winter
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you
And bring forth fruit
That is pleasing to you
Fed by your living water
Giving sustenance to others
Lord, we would grow with you

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Sandra Barrios
Children's Education Intern

HYMN UMH 89

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Susan Rati Lane
Hymn Leader

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

CELEBRATING ASIAN & PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE

Pastor De La Rosa

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE:

Psalm 22:25-31

Dot Seamster
Worship Leader

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS:

John 15:1-8

Pastor De La Rosa

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Holding on to the Tree and Bearing Fruit"

Pastor De La Rosa

HYMN W&S 3174 ³

"Christ, We Are Blest"

Susan Rati Lane
Hymn Leader

1. Christ, we are blest as we gather to dine, strengthened for love by the bread and the wine.
This is your body, now entering ours, strong with your loving, miraculous powers.
2. You laid your life down like sowing a seed; once dead and buried, from death you are freed,
rising like wheat in the warmth of the sun! Christ, you are risen! New life has begun!

(Hymn continued next page.)

3. Christ, you are risen, but not far above: you live among us in each act of love, in every deed of compassion you rise, living in flesh we can see with our eyes.
4. Jesus, you feed us, then bid us to leave, sharing with others the love we receive. We are your body, sent by your command, making love real as the bread in our hands.

-Tune: SLANE ("Be Thou My Vision" - Hymn Number 451)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God, **hear our prayers.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor De La Rosa

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Dot Seamster
Worship Leader

As a sign of entering to the holy meal,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you
with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of others.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence.)

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dot Seamster
Worship Leader

God of the far-flung universe
and God who is closer than our own heartbeat:
we long to dwell in your closeness, abiding in you
and you abiding in us.

(Offertory Prayer continued next page.)

However, the call to abide in other places is strong:
to abide in the world of popularity and acceptance
or in the world of increasing wealth and power
centered around our own wants and desires.
As we offer our gifts and ourselves to you,
help us turn away from other calls
and abide in that place of heart's deepest desire:
in your Son, Jesus, and he in us.
In Christ, we pray. Amen.

-John 15:1-8

OFFERTORY HYMN UMH 618 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Susan Rati Lane
Hymn Leader

1. Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)
2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)
3. Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)
4. Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy if you please. (if you please)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise [God] all creatures here below;
praise [God] above, ye heavenly host; praise [Creator], Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor De La Rosa

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Pastor De La Rosa

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your 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.

(Thanksgiving and Communion continued next page.)

It is right,
and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (almighty God),
creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting,
you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness
and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away,
and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you,
and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself,
our light and our salvation.

In his baptism and in table fellowship
he took his place with sinners.

Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and
recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

(Thanksgiving and Communion continued next page.)

you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Child Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Creator,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father [God/Creator], who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom [kin-dom], come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
(Thanksgiving and Communion continued next page.)
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom [kin-dom],
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

JOINTLY TAKING THE BREAD & CUP

*If you would like to participate in today’s communion,
please join Pastor De La Rosa in taking your bread and beverage now.
(Please take a moment for silent prayer.)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor De La Rosa

HYMN *UMH* 664⁴

"Sent Forth by God’s Blessing"

Susan Rati Lane
Hymn Leader

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

BENEDICTION

Pastor De La Rosa

**POSTLUDE & PERMISSION TO
PODCAST/STREAM MESSAGE**

“Sonata in d minor”

-*Domenico Scarlett*

*Please exit pews one person at a time and proceed to exit the church
through the door under the bell tower.*

At this time, we are unable to remain in the church or offer coffee hour after the service.

Permission obtained from CCLI #21000626 and ONE LICENSE #A-715349 to podcast/stream music in our service.

¹ Safiyah Fosua, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/god-is-the-true-vine-21st-century-worship-resources-for-the-fifth-sunday-of>.

² Communal prayer: Contemporary Welsh prayer posted on A Place for

Prayer. <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/07/prayer-for-growth.html>.

³ Words Copyright © 2009 Abingdon Press, admin by The Copyright Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715349. All rights reserved.

⁴ Words Copyright © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.; harm. Copyright © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715349. All rights reserved.