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Prelude: UMH 75- All People That on Earth Do Dwell
Words: Attr. to William Kethe, 1561
Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Opening hymn: TFWS 2236- Gather Us In
Words and Music: Marty Haugen.
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Anthem: TFWS 2088- Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
Words & music: Rick Fons

Hymn After Preaching: UMH 560- Help Us Accept Each Other
Words: Fred Kaan, 1974
Music: John Ness Beck, 1977
Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.,

Offertory music: Anthem: UMH 431- Let There Be Peace on Earth
Words and Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Postlude: TFWS 2055- You are my hiding place
Words & Music: Michael Ledner
Contributor: Leonard Smith

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Closing hymn: UMH 89- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Words: Henry Van Dyke
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Cristian De La Rosa
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Website for church:
www.FirstCommunityMedford.org

Facebook for church:
<https://www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc>

GIVING

If you would like to give to the church you can make a check payable to First Community UMC (Please use this full name to identify our church.) and in the Memo note the designation or you may use Zelle to treasurer@firstcommunitymedford.org and add a memo as to the designation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Study Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

Pray for the ongoing General Conference.

TODAY'S LEADERSHIP:

Preacher: *Ebiye Seimode*
Assistant Pastor: *Ebiye Seimode*
Worship Leader: *Luci Rexroad*
Piano accompaniment:
Christopbermary Augustin
Computer Tech: *Felix Jibrin*
Coffee Hour: *Martha De La Rosa*

You will find our offering plate on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please deposit your offering there.

If you are attending in-person, we invite you to join us for coffee hour.

**** Please Stand if Able***

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

April 28th, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.

First Community United Methodist Church in
Medford, Massachusetts
Fifth Sunday of Easter



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 more comfortable.

Order of Worship

BELL RINGING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

PRELUDE UMH 75- All People That on Earth Do Dwell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hol Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.

We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.

When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.

Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build

community with God and one another. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, November 2023.

*** OPENING HYMN** TFWS 2236- Gather Us In

COLLECTIVE PRAYER

When our lofty words of love have been emptied of their meaning,

When our borders and computer screens have erected impenetrable

walls, When our minds are so quick to conflate "other" with

"enemy," How will we find our common humanity?

It's never too late to make an earnest and tender start. May we

remove from our pockets the stones we intended to throw and

cement them together to build a home that welcomes all. May we

repent of our indifference and move into genuine encounter.

Instead of drawing battle lines, May we draw our chairs up to a

communal table, Where we can feast in the knowledge of our shared

dignity. May God grant us the holy vision to see every human being a

sacred mystery, and may we love each mystery not abstractly, but

concretely. Just as Thomas touched the wounds of Jesus, May we be

unafraid to touch the wounds of our suffering neighbor.

May we lay down our arms and offer our outstretched hands,

Until there is no "them," but only "us," Until we are at last, sisters

and brothers, all. Amen.

-Cameron Bell, Spirit & Verse: A Prayer for Living "Fratelli Tutti".

PASSING THE PEACE

Please pass the peace with words and/ or a smile. Distance is still recommended due to COVID and health concerns.

TEACHING MOMENT

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 10: 17 - 27b

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM TFWS 2088- Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

* READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Luke 9:51 - 56

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

“Deliver me from People” by *Ebiye Seimode*

*** HYMN** UMH 560- Help Us Accept Each Other

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORDS PRAYER

O most Compassionate Life-giver, may we honor and praise you; May we work with you to establish your new order of justice peace and love; Give us what we need for growth, and help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness. Strengthen us in the time of testing, that we may resist all evil, For all tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and forever. Amen.

- Bill Wallace, Aotearoa/New Zealand

OFFERTORY MUSIC UMH 431-Let There Be Peace on Earth

* DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*** CLOSING HYMN** UMH 89-Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE TFWS 2055- You Are My Hiding Place