

Leader: God is still dreaming of a world made new; a world of justice rolling down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

People: Use us, O God, to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously, for the transformation of the world.

All: Come, Holy Spirit. Gather us, speak to us, and send us out as your courageous people. Let us worship God together in Spirit and in truth.

****Unison Prayer***

God of justice and peace, You have called us to be peacemakers in a divided world. You have shown us, through Jesus Christ, that love is stronger than hatred and hope is stronger than despair. Strengthen us to lead courageously; not with anger or fear, but with humility, truth, and compassion. Give us the courage to stand where Christ stands, to speak when silence harms, and to act when love demands more of us. Shape us into a community that reflects Your kingdom, where dignity is honored, where reconciliation is pursued, and where peace is built through justice and love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher, our healer, and our peace. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Amos 5:21-24

New Testament Reading Luke 4:16-21

Hymn *We Shall Overcome* UMH 533

Responsive Prayer

Leader: God of justice and compassion, You call us to follow Christ with courage and faith.

People: Strengthen us to lead courageously in Your name.

Leader: When fear tempts us to remain silent,

People: Give us voices rooted in truth and love.

Leader: When comfort invites us to look away,

People: Give us courage to stand where Christ stands.

Leader: When division threatens to tear us apart,

People: Make us peacemakers and builders of community.

Leader: When justice feels costly and progress feels slow,

People: Renew our hope and deepen our commitment.

Leader: Send us out as witnesses to Your grace and peace.

People: We will lead courageously, serve faithfully, and love boldly.

All: Empowered by the Spirit, guided by Christ, we commit our lives to Your work of peace.

Choral Anthem *Pray for the People* Pepper Choplin

Penny Sunday (song in back of hymnal)

****Offering Invitation***

****Doxology*** UMH 94

****Prayer for the Offering***

(Online giving available at noumc.org. Click on “Donate” tab.)

Hymn *Let There Be Peace on Earth* UMH 431

Sermon “Lead Courageously: A Faith Withstanding”
Pastor Tennille Power

****Closing Hymn*** *We Are Marching in the Light of God*
TFWS 2235-b

****Benediction/Recessional***

Postlude *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Mark Hayes
arr. Marvin Gaspard

(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude before exiting the Sanctuary.)

**Please stand if you are able.*