



Welcome to the Congregational Church on Mercer Island

We strive to be a forward-looking community.

Where God is all-loving and inclusive.

Where people are welcomed and accepted as they are.

Where our minds are nourished as much as our souls.

Where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary.

Where together we grow a just and peaceful world.

**ALL HYMNS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS
BULLETIN**

Sunday, October 04, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude "Give Yourself to Love" by Kate Wolf Stringers

Introit "Sanctuary" by John Thomson and Randy Scruggs Stringers

**God prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With Thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Call to Worship Rev. Jennifer Castle

Come, all who are hungry for belonging.
We come, trusting that there is room for us here.
Come, from every nation and every people, from every story and every
circumstance.
We come, bringing all that we are.
At God's table, there is no place reserved for only a few.
There is still room. There is always room.
Today, around the world, Christians gather at tables like this one.
Different languages, different cultures, different traditions - but one bread, one
cup, one love.
Come, let us worship the God who makes room for everyone. Amen.

Opening Hymn #70 God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Jennifer Castle

Passing of the Peace Rev. Jennifer Castle

Hymn #485 Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

Reading Luke 14: 12-22 Read by Dave Davis

Jesus said to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."
One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great

dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.'

Reading

And the Table Will Be Wide by Jan Richardson

Read by Dave Davis

And the table will be wide. And the welcome will be wide. And the arms will open wide to gather us in. And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough. And we will come unhindered and free. And our aching will be met with bread. And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame. And we will turn toward each other without fear. And we will give up our appetite for despair. And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world. And we will become drink for those who thirst. And the blessed will become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast.

Sermon

"Becoming Welcoming"

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Anthem

"Love Grows Here" by Don Besig

Don Jenkins

Prayers and Communion Prayer

Our Creator, 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion Music “It is Well With My Soul” Jon Palmason & Stringers

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, thank you for this table, for this bread, for this cup, and for the reminder that there is room for us in your love. May what we have received here become part of who we are. Make us bread for those who hunger, welcome for those who feel shut out, companionship for those who are lonely, and peace for those who are afraid. Send us from this table ready to make room, ready to widen the circle, and ready to become your love in the world. Amen.

Closing Hymn #687 In Christ There Is No East or West

Blessing Rev. Jennifer Castle

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, 10:30 am – Bible Study via Zoom

Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal – ALL WELCOME

Thursdays, 10:30 am until Nov 12 – Women's Bible Study

Oct 10, 9:00 am – Women's Breakfast

Oct 21, 8:30 am – Book Talk via Zoom

Oct 24, 10:00 am – Wild Church

Oct 25, 11:45 am – Council Meeting

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE UPSTAIRS

Bring your children up, we'd love to look after them during worship!

To make a gift to the church, scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone and you will be directed to the appropriate link on the church website. Thank you!



Pastor

Music Director

Administrator

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Deeji Killian

Janet Morris

4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040

office@ucc-ccmi.org 206-232-7800 www.ucc-ccmi.org

GOD

70 God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

Unison

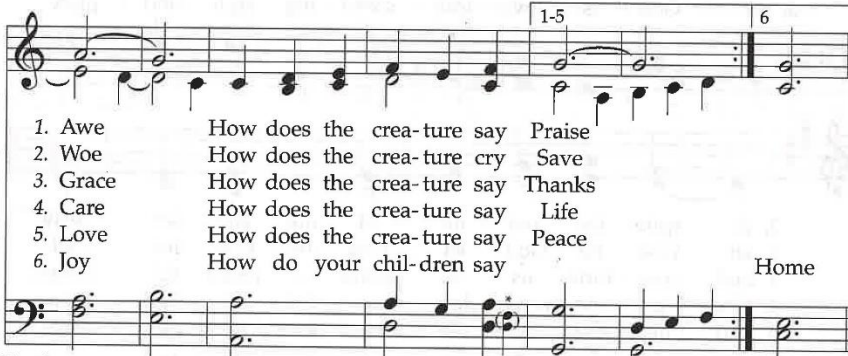


1. God of the spar - row God of the whale
2. God of the earth - quake God of the storm
3. God of the rain - bow God of the cross
4. God of the hun - gry God of the sick
5. God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
6. God of the a - ges God near at hand



1. God of the swirl - ing stars
2. God of the trum - pet blast
3. God of the emp - ty grave
4. God of the prod - i - gal
5. God of the prun - ing hook
6. God of the lov - ing heart

How does the crea - ture say
How does the crea - ture cry
How does the crea - ture say
How does the crea - ture say
How does the crea - ture say
How do your chil - dren say



1. Awe
2. Woe
3. Grace
4. Care
5. Love
6. Joy

How does the crea - ture say
How does the crea - ture cry
How does the crea - ture say
How does the crea - ture say
How does the crea - ture say
How do your chil - dren say

Praise
Save
Thanks
Life
Peace
Home

* last time

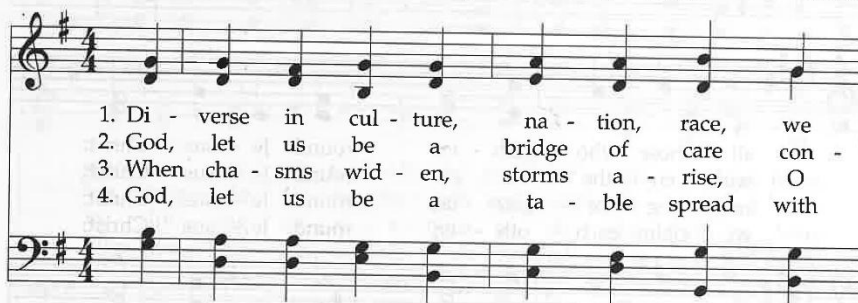
WORDS: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983
MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983

ROEDER
546.77

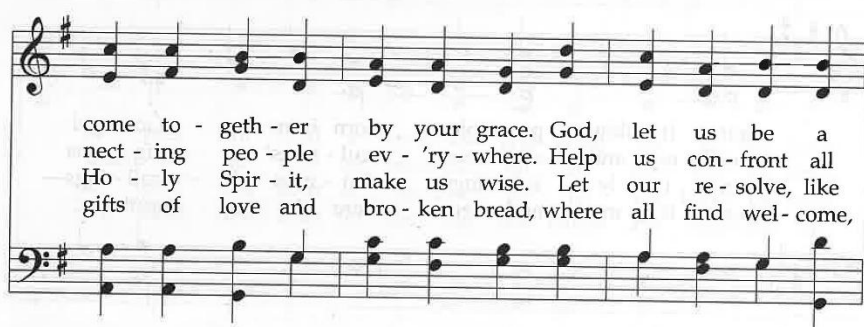
Words © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda; music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

♩=44-48

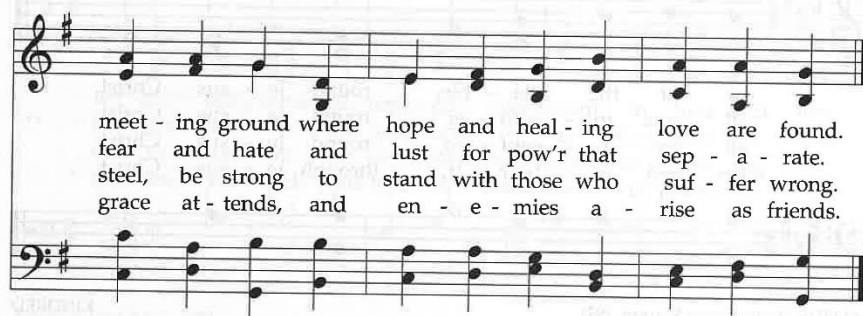
Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race 485



1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we
 2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -
 3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
 4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with



come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
 nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
 Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
 gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,



meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.
 fear and hate and lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
 steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
 grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1991
 MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1561

TALLIS' CANON
 LM

Words © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

687 In Christ There Is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev' - ry - where their
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west in

him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -
 high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be; all chil - dren of the
 him meet south and north; all lov - ing hearts are

ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

WORDS: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.
 MUSIC: Alexander R. Reinagle, c. 1830