



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, August 2, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Yuan Zhou

Introit

Come as You Are

Crowder / Maher

Call to Worship

Diane Calvert

Come, all who are weary from walking life's roads alone.

We come seeking companions for the journey.

Come, all who have known loss and all who are discovering new beginnings.

We come trusting that God meets us in both grief and hope.

Come, all who have been welcomed by unexpected kindness, and all who long to extend that same welcome to others.

We come to worship the One who binds us together in love.

Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

For Everyone Born

Welcome and Announcements

Diane Calvert

Passing of the Peace

Diane Calvert

Hymn

#453

Called as Partners in Christ's Service (verses 1, 3 & 4)

Scripture Reading

Ruth 1: 1-18

Read by Gail Layman

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to

your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Reading

Excerpt from *Kindness* by Naomi Shihab Nye
Read by Gail Layman

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to mail letters and purchase bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

Sermon	“Doing Life Together”	Stephanie Boyer
---------------	------------------------------	------------------------

Anthem	Crowded Table	Brandi Carlile
---------------	----------------------	-----------------------

Prayers and Communion Prayer	Rev. Peggy Derick
-------------------------------------	--------------------------

Loving Creator we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Communion Music	Remembrance	Matt Redman / Paul Baloche
------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------------

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we thank you for this table where strangers become neighbors, neighbors become friends, and all are reminded that we belong to you. Strengthened by this bread and this cup, send us into the world to be companions for one another. Give us the courage to remain faithful in times of uncertainty, to offer welcome to those who feel alone, and to embody your love wherever we go. May our lives bear witness to the truth we have celebrated today: that we are stronger together, richer in community, and forever held in your steadfast love. Amen.

Closing Hymn	#442	We Are Walking (praying, singing)
---------------------	-------------	--

Blessing	Stephanie Boyer
-----------------	------------------------

Welcome Stephanie!

Stephanie Boyer is a certified candidate for ordination in Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). She has served the Mercer Island community since 2004 and spent the past decade as the Director of Pebble Preschool at MI Presbyterian Church. Steph also serves as a Wellness Coordinator with the Mercer Island School District, supporting school leaders and cultivating healthy communities. She is passionate about helping people encounter Christ in everyday life and believes faith grows through curiosity, belonging, and authentic relationships. Please join us in welcoming Stephanie as our guest preacher today.

Upcoming Events:

Aug 8, 9:00 am – Women's Breakfast

Aug 16, after service – Sandwich making for Operation Nightwatch

Aug 19, 8:30 am – Book Talk with Suzanne

Aug 23, after service – 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

769 For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,

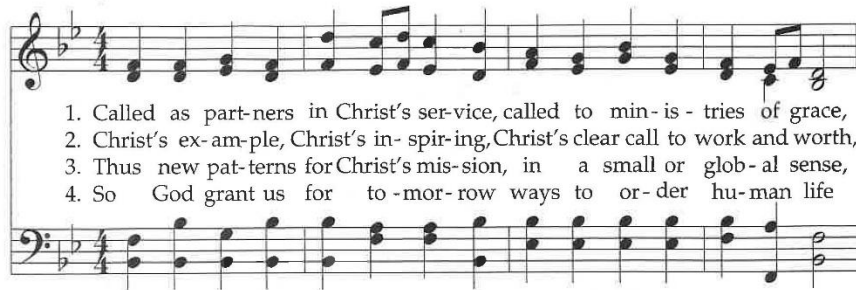


God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

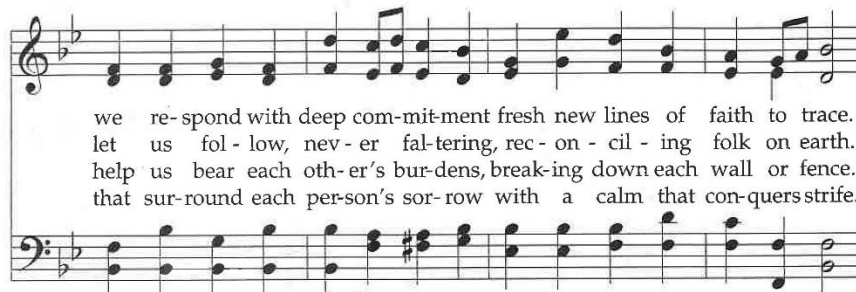


jus - tice and joy!

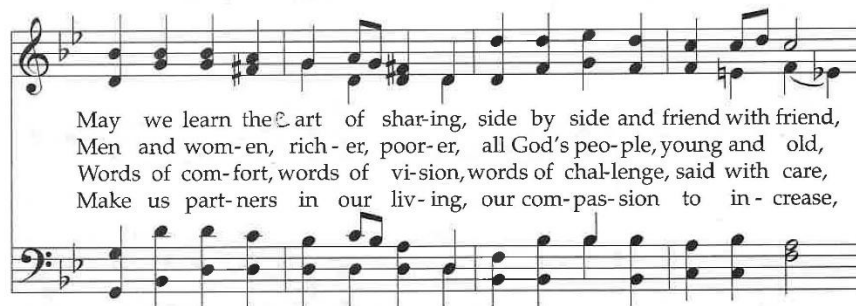
453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



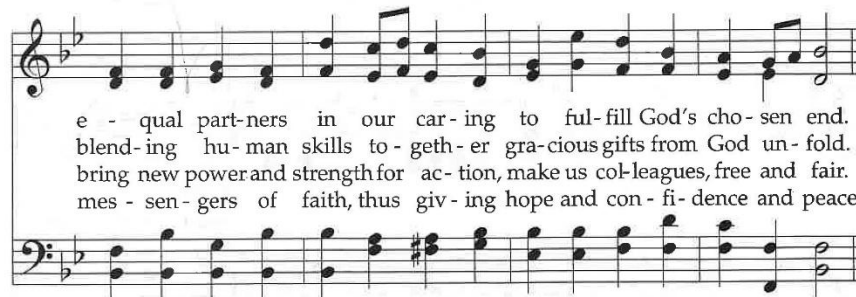
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is - tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-ers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to- geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87D

442

We Are Walking

(Siyahamba/Caminando)

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a treble and bass staff. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass staff starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a quarter note B2. The lyrics are written below the staves, with syllables aligned with the notes. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes in both staves.

We are walk ing* in the light of God, we are
 Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
 Ca - mi - nan - do en la luz de Dios, ca - mi -

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff has a first ending bracket labeled '1' and a triplet of eighth notes. The bass staff also has a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics continue across the system.

walk - ing in the light of God. We are
 hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen - khos. Si - ya -
 nan - do en la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -

The third system includes a second ending bracket labeled '2' in the treble staff. It features more triplets in both staves. The lyrics conclude the phrase 'We are Si-ya Ca-mi'.

of God we are
 kwen - khos' si - ya
 de Dios ca - mi

walk - ing in the light of the light of God. We are
 hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen kha - nyen'kwen-khos'. Si - ya
 nan - do en la luz de la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -

of God
 kwen - khos'
 de Dios

* marching/singing/dancing/praying

WORDS and MUSIC: South Africa (20th century)

SIYAHAMBA
Irr.

© 1984 Utryck; used by permission of Walton Music Corp.

GOING FORTH

walk-ing
ham - ba
nan - do

we are
Si - ya
Ca - mi

Oo

walk-ing,
ham - ba,
nan - do

walk-ing, we are
ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba,
va - mos, ca - mi - nan - do

walk-ing, we are
ham - ba, si - ya -
va - mos, ca - mi -

walk - ing in the light of God.
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos.
nan - do en la luz de Dios.