

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday October 11th

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME Open Doors

*CALL TO WORSHIP (liturgist)

In the midst of fear and anger;

in the midst of mayhem and destruction, God calls us.

With everything else going on, who has time for a feast?

We're busy, we'll get around to eating eventually.

In the midst of our anxiety, our worry;

in the midst of bill-paying and appointments, God invites us.

We are tempted to just grab a bite,

a sandwich between errands,

a snack we can eat while driving, or checking email,

or working on today's big project.

The feast is spread!

All are invited, all are welcome!

We are invited. We are welcome. We are worthy.

How will we respond?

~ written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH. She blogs at <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God,

in love You open wide the doors

and welcome us into Your presence—

saints and sinners alike.

You spread a table before us,
filled with the richest fare—
a feast of love and mercy
for the body and soul.

We come with joy to meet You here,
to eat and drink at Your table,
to taste and see Your goodness,
to celebrate Your grace and mercy in our lives.

May Your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving,
our prayers and petitions
as we worship together in Your presence.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our host and Lord,
Amen.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER This is the Day UMH 657
CHILDREN'S MOMENT

HYMN We've a Story to Tell to the Nations UMH 569

LESSON I (liturgist) Psalm 23 CEB

The Lord is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

² He lets me rest in grassy meadows;

he leads me to restful waters;

³ he keeps me ^[a] alive.

He guides me in proper paths

for the sake of his good name.

⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—
they protect me.

⁵ You set a table for me
right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil;
my cup is so full it spills over!

⁶ Yes, goodness and faithful love
will pursue me all the days of my life,
and I will live^[b] in the Lord's house
as long as I live.

May God Add a Blessing to This Reading.

*LESSON 2 Matthew 22:1-14 CEB

Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. 3 He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn’t want to come. 4 Again he sent other servants and said to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared. I’ve butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything’s ready. Come to the wedding party!”’ 5 But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. 6 The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them. 7 “The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren’t worthy. 9 Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’

10 “Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. 11 Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn’t wearing wedding clothes. 12 He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’ 14 “Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”

This is the Word of God for all people.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “What a Party”

*HYMN The Summons TFWS 2130

TIME OF PRAYER
SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER
LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN Let There Be Peace on Earth UMH 431 (1x)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

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

PASTORAL PRAYER/BLESSING OF PLEDGES

UNISON PRAYER

*BENEDICTION

Pass It On UMH 572 v I & 3

POSTLUDE