

Alexandria United Methodist Church
July 21, 2024 ~ Special Sunday, “Why Jesus?”
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B, Gospel of Mark



Order of Service *stand as you are able, in body and/or spirit
Gathering Words *Surely, the Presence of the Lord is in This Place*
Greeting, Welcome and Invocation
Call to Worship
Psalm 142 (NIV translation)
Scripture Lesson, Matthew 17:14-20 (NIV translation)
Selah - a time to pause, *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* by Alfred Publishing
Offering on Scripture,
“Reconstructing Broken Faith”, Robyn Hare
Service of Word and Table, follow along, pages 2-5
Announcements
Benediction
***Sending Hymn**, TFWS#2074 *Shout to the Lord*, all verses
Postlude, TFWS # 2074 *Shout to the Lord*
Today’s ‘Sunday Ministry’ Team ~ Thank you for your ministry!
Officiant: Pr. Amy VanValkenburg Special Guest: Robyn Hare Liturgist: Dave Nomsen Lay Leaders:
Scott Garvin and Chuck Holm Greeter/Ushers: Ron & Kathy Reiber Worship Team: Janet Eisele,
pianist; Deb Parrott, Guitar; Vocals: Scott Garvin, Sue Walker Tech: Ginger Mayer, Sawyer
VanValkenburg, *YouTube*; Thomas VanValkenburg, *A/V* Fellowship: Viva Lelm; Barb Keepers
Bulletin/Slides: Ginger Mayer & Pr. Amy

Welcome Robyn! We are so glad you are here!

Robyn Hare grew up in Fargo, ND, and graduated from the University of North Dakota with an English and Secondary Education degree. She taught in the Twin Cities for a few years before she and her husband moved to Brussels, Belgium for 16 years. While living in Brussels, she had three boys, taught at the International School of Brussels, and volunteered extensively with Stop the Traffik. This organization works to combat human trafficking. She graduated from Luther Seminary in May 2024 and will begin a year-long residency as a hospital chaplain in the Twin Cities this fall. She and her husband, Brett, live in Shoreview, MN and their three boys are 20, 17, and 12.



A Service of Word and Table

All communion bread is gluten free.

Christ our Lord invites all to The Table.

Prayers of the People

Offering of Peace

Call to the Feast

One: We gather here from many communities of faith, from many different points on a faith journey.

People: We come with a hunger for connection and a thirst for justice.

One: Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me, shall not hunger; you who listen to me and believe, shall not thirst."

People: Together, with all who hunger and thirst, we come to this table to know Christ in the sharing of the bread and the cup. As we gather at Your table, as we listen to Your Word, help us know, Your Presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.

One: Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this Holy Banquet how to make Love's victory known.

People: Turn our worship into witness in the Sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.

One: Give us, Christ, Your Great Compassion to forgive as You forgave;

People: May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

One: Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where Triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

All: There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Time of Generosity (tithes and offering)

Doxology, #95

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

Pr. Amy: When we come to this table, having heard what it means, I feel like there is something missing. Jesus shares a Passover feast the day before he is killed for loving too much. And if you've ever been to a Passover feast, it's not a small event, but yet we seem to see Jesus at a table with 12 other people and there is nobody else in the room. When in reality, there are probably servants around making sure everybody is getting the right things and making sure the Passover feast is happening in proper order...there are probably people feeling like they are on the margins...looking in...not really being able to participate...and I have to believe that Jesus sees those people too...not just the 12 at the table with Him...At that meal...a meal that represents the celebration of the liberation of God's people...Jesus takes bread, He offers it to God and gives thanks...and He breaks it...Remembering the brokenness of humanity...Remembering those people around the edges of the room and not just those 12 friends, those that are probably hurting a lot and He says...

This is My body, this is My life and My work with you and for you

And I beg you, please, to remember me when you do this again and again and again...Remember the stories and the lessons I taught you when you break this bread and feed each other again and again and again...remember.

And after dinner, Jesus takes the Elijah cup, which is traditionally the cup that is reserved for the Holy One to come, and He doesn't even hold it for Himself...He passes it on...yes, for sure to the Disciples, but maybe it went all the way around the edges of the room...it certainly has made its way here; it's being offered to us here at Alexandria United Methodist Church. Jesus says, this is a cup of a new covenant...not the old covenants simply of law and judgement...but this cup is full of forgiveness and grace and wholeness ("relation is repair")...to believe that you are all worthy! Jesus says, "Drink of it! And remember Me! And remember this ministry we've had because you're going to keep doing it!" For as often as we take this bread, we participate in The Body of the Risen Christ because you and I are the body of the Risen Christ today...even in our brokenness. And whenever we receive this cup, we participate in God's hope for a new community, a new covenantal community of peace, and justice, and love, and reconciliation! Let us pray,

All: Holy and Gracious God, we give thanks for your Beloved Child, Jesus, and everything that He offered and taught. We give thanks that He refused to stay dead. We remember His brokenness when we feel broken and we remember His Resurrection when we feel healed...we remember and so we come together to celebrate love and our diversity in this meal.

One: O God, may Your Spirit come and hover over this table; may Your Grace and our faith dance here over these elements, these simple gifts, that are sacred of bread and cup.

All: Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again. Thank you God, for this meal, refresh us, as we continue to seek to do Your work in the world, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

One: Pour out Your Spirit on us

People: Pour out Your Spirit on us

One: Pour out Your Spirit on these gifts

People: Pour out Your Spirit on these gifts

One: Make these gifts the Body and Blood of Christ

People: Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world.

One: Turn our worship into witness in the Sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve You, bringing peace where there is strife.

People: Be our daily bread.

One: Come, Holy Spirit!

People: Send us to the world.

One: And now, with confidence of beloved children of God, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Bread of Life

Cup of Life

United Methodists practice an 'open table', meaning all are welcome – any age, any person – **ALL ARE WELCOME!** The ushers release people in order to prevent congestion and then people make their way to the chancel to receive bread and juice. Feel free to receive Communion standing or kneeling and feel free to respond in the way that feels right to you...when you come to The Table, you may hear the pastor or Communion steward say the words above. Some people like to say "Amen" ~ any loving response, including silence, is a good one. In the Great Thanksgiving, we ask the Holy Spirit to be poured on us and on the gifts of bread and wine we offer. We ask for the Spirit's outpouring to make the bread and wine be for us the body and blood of Christ so we, who receive them, may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. We believe God answers this prayer "Yes," and the Spirit does all these things. Christ is really present here, and Christ's presence really changes us.

Acknowledgements

GATHERING WORDS: Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place words and music by Lanny Wolfe © 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music

SELAH: Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling copyright 2009 Alfred Publishing permission One License

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE: All liturgical resources for this service, unless otherwise noted, were written by Rev. Marc W Blakesley. © 2024, New Thing Worship Consulting, Alexandria, MN. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Special note: Some of the words in "The Call to the Feast" are from the hymn, "As We Gather at Your Table", Words © Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1989, Hope Publishing Co.

COMMUNION MEDITATION: Hymns from TFWS In the Singing, 2255; Words by Shirley Murray, music by Carlton Young © 1996 Hope Publishing Co. Open Our Eyes 2086 Words and music by Bob Cull © 1976 Marathana music admin The Copyright Co. Lord Be Glorified 2150; words and music by Bob Kilpatrick © 1978, 01986 Prism Tree Music assigned to 1998 The Lorenz Corp. Kyrie 2275 words by Ancient Greek Music based on Mvt. II from Symphony No. 9 arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram Arr. © 1998 Alfred Publishing Co.

SENDING HYMN and POSTLUDE: TFWS #2074 Shout to the Lord, words and music by Darlene Zschech © 1993 Darlene Zschech/HillSongs Publishing admin by Integrity's Hosanna Music.

DOXOLOGY: UMH #95 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, Words by Thomas Ken; music by Attr. to Louis Bourgeois.

SCRIPTURE: from the NIV, Bible Gateway online. Used with permission.

IMAGES: Images in our slide deck are from Vanderbilt University's library, used by permission, from Discipleship Ministries UMC, https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=61#hebrew_reading If there is an acknowledgement that is of particular interest to you and you do not see it listed here, please contact us at office@alexumc.org.

Announcements

Wood Fire Oven, July 24, 2024, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Non-profits: Viking Sportsman Club and Cardinal Soccer Boosters. Visit us online at <http://alexandriacommunitywoodfired.com/> or through the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/UMCWoodFired>

Pr. Amy at Preaching Workshop July 28-Aug 2. Please consult the weekly calendar for any updates to her schedule, visit: <http://www.alexumc.org/weekly-calendar> . Welcome Lay Speaker, Pam Cook, back with us on July 28!

Friends Gathering will be hosted by Pr. Amy on the patio at the parsonage on August 15, 9am, All are welcome!

Joy Circle: Our sincere apologies about the scheduling mix up this week. Our next gathering will be Sept 19, at 9:30 a.m.

Family Camp - August 20-25 - ALL AGES!!! Family Camp - Registration allows for all kinds of ways to enter into time together - come one day or come two, come for the week - what works for you? It's an incredible way to share fun and faith together! Grandkids & grandparents encouraged! Pr. Amy leads Family Camp with Pr. Christa Forsythe and Youth Leader, Janelle Eisenbacher (Immanuel Lutheran, Atwater). Consider coming at least for a day! Complete the registration form and submit it to our office with payment no later than July 25. If you are considering Family Camp but funds are not available, scholarships available. We want every family to have this amazing opportunity!

Sermon Series beginning September 2024. Pr. Amy will begin a *never-been-done* at Alex UMC sermon series, “Enough”. With many opportunities for dialogue and beginning this September, we hope you will join us for this series that wraps up in early January. Together, we will endeavor to look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy!

Alexandria UMC VBS 2024 43:1 *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.* One more Summer VBS Event: Wednesday, August 14, 6:00-7:30 at Brophy Park. Preschool – Grade 6 We will share a meal, a short Bible lesson, craft, game, and take time to enjoy all our location has to offer. If the weather is rainy, we will move Brophy Park gatherings to the church. Whether you can make it to one, two, or all events, we will be happy to see you there! All are welcome - no need to register. We ask that parents of preschoolers stay onsite to help supervise their child(ren).

Staff Parish Relations News At the July Administrative Council Meeting, the SPR committee recommended reducing Ginger's hours, based upon changes in her job description and the overall needs of the church. The motion was passed. Effective August 1st, Ginger will be working 23 hours/week, from the current 37. This change in hours will also mean that Ginger will be assisting on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Each week, we encourage you to review the office hours posted in the *Weekly Calendar*, p. 4, & online at www.alexumc.org! Approved minutes of Administrative Council meetings and our Finance Reports are always posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex to the right of the Lounge. As always, contact an SPRC representative if you have questions! Ron Schutte and Heidi Ryan are Co-chairs, assisted by Chuck Holm, Scott Garvin, Sharon Slack, and Bruce Jordan.

Alex UMC Weekly Calendar, subject to change
updates at <http://www.alexumc.org/weekly-calendar>
Our address: 2210 Sixth Avenue E, Alexandria, MN 56308

Mon 7/22

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.
10:30 a.m. Ecumenical Bible Study,
Windmill Ponds Chapel – all welcome
Pastor's office hours 1-4p.m.

Tues 7/23

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.
Pastor's office hours 1-4p.m.
9:30 a.m. Brush & Palette
6:30 p.m. Ala-non, Lounge

Wed 7/24

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 pm Pizza Night

Thurs 7/25

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.

Fri 7/26

Office Closed

Sat 7/27

5 pm Worship Team Practice

Sun 7/28

9 am Worship with Certified lay
Speaker, Pam Cook
Welcome Pam!

Contact us:

Pr. Amy's office hours are subject to change. It works best to contact her directly for appts or visits: 320-309-5574, pastor@alexumc.org . No Friday appointments.

Main Office – Office Hours, M-Th, 9am – 1pm, Ginger, Phone: 320-763-4624, Email: office@alexumc.org

Treasurer, Cori Lecy, 1-507-829-6865, finance@alexumc.org.

For online giving opportunities, go to www.alexumc.org and select "visit the giving page" in the left-hand navigation or scan this QR code:



Let's stay connected! All, including members, are encouraged to sign the blue books in the pews; include your contact information and let us know if you have any requests or if you would like the pastor to contact you.