



WHO
WE ARE

FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated in worshipping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors". We celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full membership and participation in the life of this community of faith.

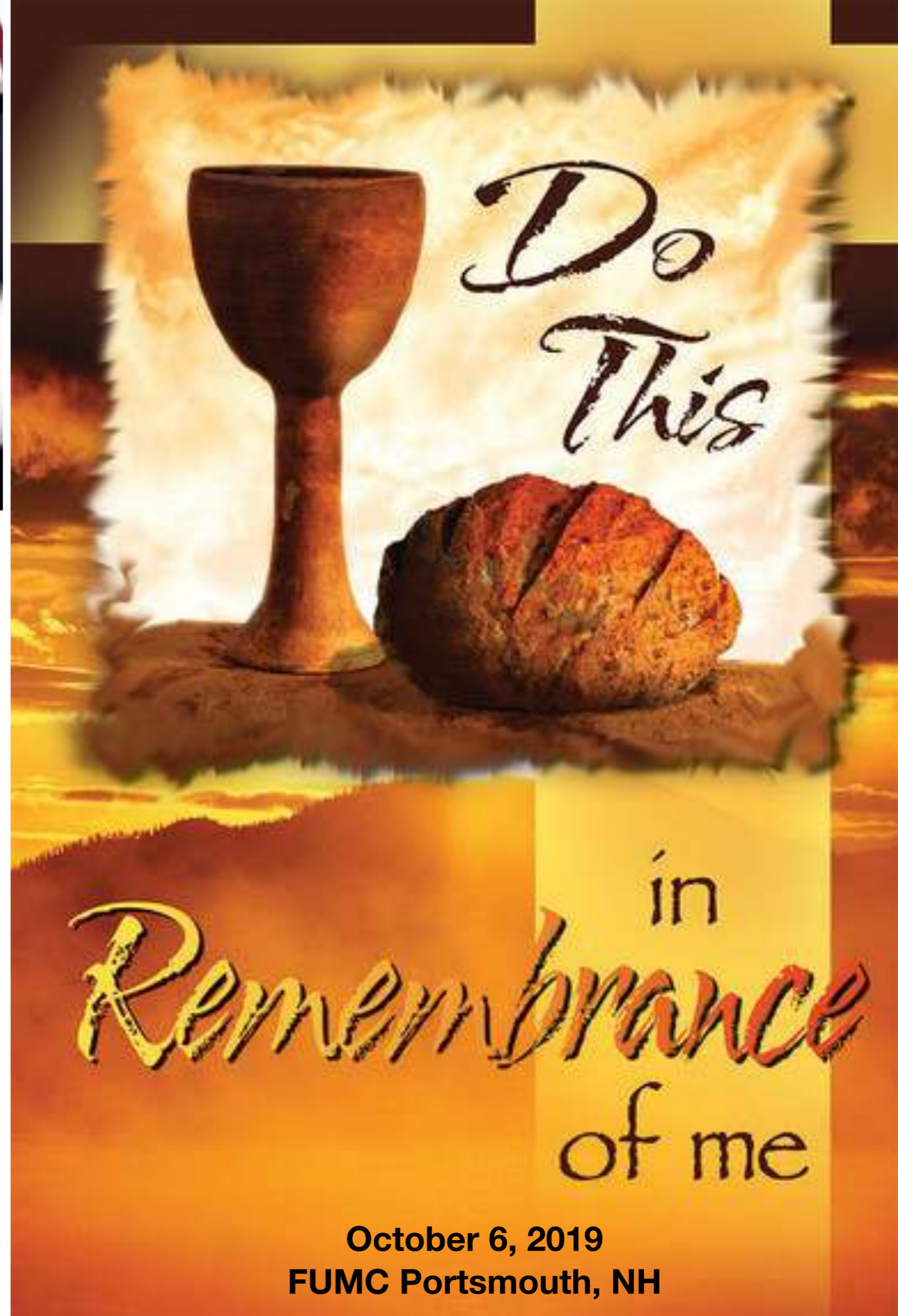


New England Annual Conference Tri-State District
The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop
The Rev. Taesung Kang, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801
Office Phone 603-436-6038 office@fumcportsmouth.net
Pastor office hours - Tuesday and Thursday 9 am - 12 pm
[call to ensure availability]
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Check out our website at www.fumcportsmouth.com

Like and Follow Us On:   



October 6, 2019
FUMC Portsmouth, NH

We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Gratitude Moments

***Call to Worship**

L: Today we connect with our brothers and sisters throughout the world as we celebrate Holy Communion.

P: We are one in the Spirit, one family in God no matter where we live and worship.

L: What a joy to know that thousands also worship with us today as we celebrate our unity in Christ Jesus.

P: What a gift God has given us! Let us worship!

***Hymn:** "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" insert

A Time for the Child in all of Us

Prayer (unison)

God of us all, we sometimes forget that there are people in other places who worship you, too. We know that they don't always worship in the same way, with the same language, or with the same traditions as ours. Help us to remember and appreciate our connection with so many around the world and forgive us when we forget them or think our way is the only way. Forgive our assumptions and our prejudices. Lead us toward unity and help us celebrate our diversity. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Know that God hears our prayers, accepts our repentance and forgives us.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Sung Response: "Spirit of the Living God" UMH #393

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word: Galatians 3:23-29

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message: "We Are the World"
Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn:** "One Bread, One Body" UMH #620

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 in temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Ministry of Music

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology:** (*Please join in singing the following*) UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

God of the world, we offer our gifts to those near and far away who seek you, who are in need, and who long for a word of hope and grace. May our offerings today make a difference in our world. Amen.

A Service of Holy Communion insert

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn:** "In Christ There is No East or West" UMH #548

***Choral Benediction** (*Congregation encircles the Sanctuary*)

May the Lord, gracious God bless and keep you forever. Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and seek His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God bless and keep you forever.

***Pastor's Charge**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

*TFWS = The Faith We Sing UMH = United Methodist Hymnal
Large print bulletins are available from the greeters*

Welcome!

Whether you are joining us for worship for the first time or after many years of attending here at First UMC, we want you to know that you are welcome!

We are an inclusive community that invites everyone to be part of our church fellowship. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you have had a meaningful experience of worshipping our God so you leave this place feeling that you have been blessed to be a blessing. Please join us again!



Rev. Deb Hanson

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Pastor's Assistant - David Richards

Liturgist - John VanReenen

Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Acolyte - Sue Richards

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Greeters - Sue Lange

Ushers - Al & Jan Cansdale

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek

Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott

Photographer - Dave Atkinson

Sunday School - Aerial Silanpaa & Rosie Buswell



Come join us for coffee hour after church service in Sanborn Hall. We'd love to catch up with you and see how your week has gone.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

Ken Young

Rev. Bill & Gayle Gardei

Marion Collinshaw

Sylvia Bartlett

Gil Stebbins

Woodie Lange

Jim New

Bobbie Noble

Barbara Glidden

Judy Doyon

Charles Gilman

Ruth Griffin

Jim Slater & Family

Barbara Sylvester

Barbara Millar

Barbara Clement

Rev. Charles & Anona Hartman

Our Denomination

Our Church Family



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Donations are being accepted for a new hand held microphone. The old one is no longer working. The cost is \$1,000. Thank you!

10/8, Peace Circle meets at 9:30 am. Books are in the office.

10/8, at 6 pm we will have Finance Trustee meeting at FUMC.

10/19, at 2 pm is our second Pumpkin Delivery.

9/1 - 10/31, FUMC is collecting your “stuff” for our Savers FUNDraiser. It’s a great time to clean out and have the church get paid. Bag or box up your good, clean, working, sellable condition items and put them on Sanborn Hall stage. We need to deliver everything all together to Savers on 11/6, for weighing. Here’s an example: 14 lbs. of “Soft Goods” = about a 13 gal. trash bag and a black garden leaf bag from 30 to 40 lbs. Our goal is 10,000 pounds which equals approximately \$2000.00.

11/16, Our annual turkey supper date has changed, please note this on your calendars and we look forward to having you there.

October is Pastor appreciation month! Let’s show Pastor Deb our appreciation with a rousing thanks for all you do. Please remember all the Pastors who have affected your life and keep them in your prayers.

Remember your pumpkins for the fall at FUMC. There are baked goods available, everything from cookies to pies. You can also pre-order pies for a Tuesday or Saturday pick-up. The choices are apple, pumpkin, blueberry and cherry. Come try a tasty treat!

Huge thank you to all the people who turned out Sunday afternoon for the Pumpkin Patch unloading. It was great to see all the enthusiasm and have all the assistance.

Just a friendly reminder, please try to keep your pledge up to date so we can meet our financial obligations as a church. Thank you for your faithful giving!

We continue to celebrate those in Senior Living. Please send a card from the table in Sanborn Hall to brighten their day. Stamps are available in the office or leave on counter for mailing. Thanks!



**Celebrating Kaya’s
Adoption Day,
Love Mum**

World Communion 2019

Invitation

L: Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers from above and below the equator, from the North and from Down Under, from every time zone around the globe. As today's sunlight inches across land and sea Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family. All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!

World Communion Liturgy

L: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new, we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

All: God, we submit ourselves to renewal through you. This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Preface & Thanksgiving

L: Loving and gracious God who summons galaxies into being, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for our world. The diversity of our planet amazes us from the prairies and pampas of the Americas to the dusty deserts of Africa and Asia, from the majestic mountains of Europe to the vast outback of Australia. We give you thanks for the multiplicity of humanity with our complexity of color and culture yet called into oneness-of-being through Christ. With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honor you saying:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**



L: Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. As Christ is our light to you, may we be lights to others illuminating the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother. Amen.

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Elements

L: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

L: May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ.

Sharing the Elements

Bread: The bread of life, shared with you.

Cup: The cup of the New Covenant, shared with you.

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving (after communion)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! With thanksgiving, let us celebrate our new life in Christ giving thanks to God our creator and sustainer: Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal. Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity. Thank you for this day, which we worship and serve you. Amen.





SERMON TRANSCRIPT GIVEN BY
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

“We Are the World” – October 7, 2019
First UMC – Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:23-29

THEME: Together as God’s children we are the World!

There comes a time
When we heed a certain call
When the world must come together as one
There are people dying
Oh, and it's time to lend a hand to life
The greatest gift of all
We can't go on
Pretending day-by-day
That someone, somewhere soon make a change
We're all a part of God's great big family
And the truth, you know, love is all we need
We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me
Oh, send them your heart
So they know that someone cares

On January 28, 1985, as famine devastated the African continent, a star-filled roster of musical stars from all ethnic backgrounds and music genres got together to record a song dedicated to alleviating hunger in Africa. The song was called "We Are the World," the collected artists billed themselves as "USA for Africa," and the single became a phenomenon, raising over \$60 million for African famine relief. Producer Quincy Jones and songwriters Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie persuaded some of the most popular performers in America to donate their services to the project, and now, thirty years later, USA for Africa continues to exist and help in third world countries, although the amount of money they collect is not nearly as much as it was in 1985. (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/we-are-the-world-the-story-behind-the-song/id499468078>)

The thing is, Michael Jackson, Lionel Ritchie, and Quincy Jones saw the starvation in Africa and decided to do something about it. They didn’t see it as “those folks way over there,” but as us – all of us – we are the world. We have seen similar responses for aid following tsunami’s, hurricanes, farm aid, and many others. The United Methodist Church is involved in missions all over the world. If you saw the list of missions that we can support, it would be four or five pages (front and back) of columns naming the account number where collections could be sent. Currently, we actively support 300 missionaries and 600 projects that are spread throughout the world, on every continent.

We aren't the only ones who support missions throughout the world, denominations everywhere send missionaries and have projects where the Church of Jesus Christ is making a difference. If you have ever been on a mission trip, you probably learned a lot. Most of us who go return recognizing the strong connection to our brothers and sisters elsewhere – it's because we put a face to those who live somewhere else or speak a different language, and have a different ethnic background.

We are all different, that's true. Worship in Nicaragua, besides being in Spanish, also is very lively, with lots of singing, dancing, clapping, instruments, and joy. Yet, in Nicaragua, the average person who is lucky enough to have a job, earns around 65 cents an hour. The unemployment rate was at one point near 75%. In Guatemala, I found a similar situation as far as joyful worship in spite of what we might consider poverty. Many of the Guatemalans were able to find work of some kind, and they are devout Christians who worship God with joy.

People in Central America have a different color skin, speak a different language, live much more simply than we do, but we all have Christ in common, and, especially today on World Communion Sunday, we are reminded of being one in Christ; we are the world together. From the epistle to the Galatians, we have a clear picture of divisions in that society, as well. Some people were considered worthy of God's love and blessing, while others were not. Attitudes toward what was considered the "lower class" or the outcasts were clear cut: *The Babylonian Talmud included a morning blessing that was supposed to be chanted by all Jewish men, thanking God for not creating him a gentile, a slave, or a woman. (Information from Elisabeth Johnson found at Text This Week under commentaries for today's passage)*

Baptism in Christ and receiving communion together reminds us of our connection in Christ. Today we are focus on the fact that EVERYONE world-wide is part of the family of God in Christ Jesus. John 3:16 doesn't say "God so loved the people in the world who are black, white, brown, rich, poor, in Africa, in Australia, or Korea." No – what does it say? "God so loved the world!" Verse 17 reads: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Professor Elisabeth Johnson writes: "Differences in ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status do not magically disappear, of course, but Paul declares them to be irrelevant in the body of Christ. For one to be baptized into Christ means being clothed with Christ and finding one's primary identity and value in Christ." (ibid) The message in Galatians is strong: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28)

Of course, there were still divisions because old prejudices and mindsets take time to change. But thinking differently about people who live in other areas of the world and even around the corner from us helps us to remember that God truly loved the WORLD. "We are the world" – all of us – together in Christ – no contest. And yet, so many people try to keep a separation in place. How do we draw together in unity – not uniformity, but unity in Christ?

Lutheran Deaconess E. Louise Williams shared a story about an old, stable neighborhood in Chicago:

On the first night of Hanukkah, a menorah appeared in the window of one of the homes. This had never happened before. Next morning, the front door of that home bore a large, crudely painted swastika. That evening, a second candle appeared in the window. But now, another home across the street had a menorah in the window as well. Next morning, the second home also had a swastika on the door. On the third evening, three candles burned in the window of the first home, and now menorahs had shown up in the front windows of half a dozen homes round about. Next morning, six more swastikas. By the fourth evening, menorahs beamed light from the windows of homes all up and down that street. No more swastikas appeared in the neighborhood. Light had chased away the darkness.

(found under commentaries for this passage at Text This Week, titled "The Broken Walls of Galatians 3:28, citing Frederick A. Niedner, Jr., Joy to the World: 1999 Advent Devotions (Itasca, IL: Wheat Ridge Ministries, 1999) 7)

The message is loud and clear. We stand together in support of each other, and there isn't room for nastiness, criticism, harassment, or other forms of degrading a brother and sister in God's family. We are the World! We are called to learn about and seek to understand the OTHER. Quakers will turn to each other and say, "May the Christ in me meet the Christ in thee."

How do we see the face of Christ on others – at home, in our country, in our world? How do we respond to the challenge that Galatians 3 offers us? How can we put a face on those with whom we have no real contact? These are questions I think we all need to ask ourselves regularly. When we are tempted to ignore the plight of someone else because it doesn't affect us, how can we find words to pray for them – to put ourselves in their shoes – to understand or try to understand what they are experiencing?

We can start with ourselves. Professor Elisabeth Johnson shared another story that might give us some thoughts. *She writes: Recently a woman in the congregation I serve was questioned by a fellow member who was trying to pin down her stand on a particular issue – to figure out whether she was "conservative" or "liberal." Refusing to be labeled, she responded by saying simply, "I am a child of God. That is what matters."* Her interrogator was left flustered and speechless. (See reference for Elisabeth Johnson) What if we had that idea so thoroughly ingrained in our minds and hearts that we could recognize when someone is being adverse toward us or more importantly toward someone else. We can be grounded in Christ, recognize that other people are also God's children, and know that they are people, too.

We are the world

We are the children

We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving

There's a choice we're making

We're saving our own lives

It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me.

We give our hearts and minds to the ministry of Christ in the world. We can stay open to the call of God to – to what? What can we do? To give of our resources, sure. To give of our time? Hopefully. To give of our hearts? Yes! To give of our ability to pray? Yes! To keep an open mind and see the face of Christ on each other, on others. The barriers have been broken down

because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The barriers have been broken down through baptism into Christ. The barriers have been broken down through receiving Holy Communion, the reminder of the body and blood of Christ that draws us together into the Body of Christ – re-membered, rejuvenated, and sent forth to the world around us and beyond. We are the world!

Let us pray:

Holy God, you have opened the doors for us to see our brothers and sisters in Christ no matter where they are in this world. May we see the face of Christ on each other and on them. Amen.