

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 7, 2025 – 10:30A
Communion Sunday

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude – Instrumental

Angela Gricar

A Word of Greeting/Centering Words –

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

God knows us better than anyone and loves us more deeply than we can fathom. Even when we become less than God created us to be, God continues to love us and have faith in us.

Opening Hymn – This is My Father’s World UMH#144, v.1,3

Angela Gricar

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

Call to Worship – (L: Leader, P: People)

Stanley Pang

L: Did you hear the whisper of God calling us to worship?

P: God, help us listen as you call.

L: Do you sense the beautiful people God is creating us to become?

P: God, help us to see your image within.

L: Are we ready to listen, learn, and grow?

P: God, open our hearts and minds to your loving and challenging guidance.

Opening Prayer –

Stanley Pang

Creator God, you have crafted us in your image and created us for greatness, as we share your love, justice, and compassion. Help us to live into this creation. Strengthen us, as we seek to answer your call. When we go astray, guide us back to your ways. When we fall apart, put us back together again. When we shrink in fear, lift our heads, that we may come to see your love and grace guiding us home. Amen.

A Message to the Children (In Us All) –

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

The Word of God for the People of God

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Luke 14:25-33

Stanley Pang

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Jeremiah received the LORD’s word: 2 Go down to the potter’s house, and I’ll give you instructions about what to do there. 3 So I went down to the potter’s house; he was working on the potter’s wheel. 4 But the piece he was making was flawed while still in his hands, so the potter started on another, as seemed best to him. 5 Then the LORD’s word came to me: 6 House of Israel, can’t I deal with you like this potter, declares the LORD? Like clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in mine, house of Israel! 7 At any time I may announce that I will dig up, pull down, and destroy a nation or kingdom; 8 but if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I’ll relent and not carry out the harm I intended for it. 9 At the same time, I may announce that I will build and plant a nation or kingdom; 10 but if that nation displeases and disobeys me, then I’ll relent and not carry out the good I intended for it. 11 Now say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem: This is what the LORD says: I am a potter preparing a disaster for you; I’m working out a plan against you. So each one of you, turn from your evil ways; reform your ways and your actions.

Luke 14:25-33

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, **26** “Whoever comes to me and doesn’t hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one’s own life—cannot be my disciple. **27** Whoever doesn’t carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 “If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? **29** Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn’t finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. **30** They will say, ‘Here’s the person who began construction and couldn’t complete it!’ **31** Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? **32** And if he didn’t think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. **33** In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

L: The word of God for all People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon – Clay in the Fire: Shaped Costly for Love

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer – Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God’s Grace

Celebration of Holy Communion –

Clergy Team

Communion Hymns – In Remembrance of Me TFWS#2152
I Am So Blessed (Chant)

Angela Gricar

Offering Our Gifts –

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Offertory – Instrumental

Angela Gricar

Doxology – Glory Be to the Father UMH#71

Angela Gricar

Prayer of Dedication –

Stanley Pang

Gracious God, you have blessed us beyond measure; you have entrusted us as partners to care for your world. Bless these gifts and our very lives. Transform everything we are in this life into offerings that bring your love into the world. Amen.

Going Forth in God’s Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Closing Hymn – Change My Heart, O God TFWS#2152, 2x

Angela Gricar

Commission and Blessings –

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace – Postlude