

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Communion Sunday – Welcome Back Clergy
July 5, 2026 – 10:30A

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of the Altar Candles

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words [Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]
'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes'...Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear...In the place of ancestors you...shall have sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you for ever and ever.

Opening Hymn – ***"America, the Beautiful" UMH#697, v.1,3,4***

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

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

[Derek Murakami]

L: *The Lord has greatly blessed us,*

P: with all that we need and more.

L: *God has done miracles in our lives*

P: beyond what we could ask,

L: *or comprehend*

P: or even hope for.

L: *The Holy One has made us*

P: thousands of myriads –

L: *not just one thing,*

P: but multitudes.

L: *Let us come now,*

P: again...

L: *always...*

P: to offer our praise to the Creator of all.

Opening Prayer

[Derek Murakami]

God of all Life, you take what feels complicated and make it simple. You take what seems simple and show us the complex. You remind us that we are more than we think we are, more than we believe we can be, and all that you have made us and called us to become. Come, God, and help us see past the expectations and assumptions into the world you long for us to create with mercy and space, justice and grace, for us all. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

The Word of God for the People of God

Scripture Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-12

[Derek Murakami]

¹ all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand.

³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁴ Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear^[a] and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”

¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Sermon – Choose Your Own Adventure: Origin Stories - Nehemiah Part 2 [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 – **“Love Divine; All Love Excelling; Patriotic Medley”**
[Instrumental Ensemble]

Offering Our Gifts [Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u]

Doxology – **“Glory Be to the Father”, UMH#71**

Prayer of Dedication [Derek Murakami]
Gracious God, you have made our lives more than we ever dreamed, offering blessings beyond our greatest imaginings, multitudes of mercy, great gifts of grace. From this bounty, we offer ourselves and our lives – our time, talents, and treasures – with joy and gladness, for now and for always. Amen.

Going Forth in God’s Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC [Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u]

Closing Hymn – **“To God Be the Glory” UMH#98, v.1,3**

Commission and Blessings

Passing of the Peace – Postlude