

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**Prelude***Hear Now, The Heavens Rejoicing*

**Gathering**— Like clay, we arrive at this time of worship: shapeless and full of potential, we arrive. Like clay, we prepare for this time of worship: stretched and twisted into formation, we prepare. Like clay, we enter this time of worship: formed and ready for warmth, we enter.+

**A Time of Prayer**— Loving Creator, maker of everything good, we are in your hands. Be with us now as we gather ourselves to seek your wisdom and strive to become the people you would have us be.+

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Choir***Spirit of the Living God***We Hear God's Word***Jeremiah 18:1-11 (NRSV)*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. <sup>4</sup>The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>6</sup>'Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?' says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, <sup>8</sup>but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. <sup>9</sup>And at another

moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, <sup>10</sup>but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. <sup>11</sup>Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

### **Reflection Song**

*Change My Heart, O God, #373*

### **Meditation**

*Jars of Clay: Formed by God*

### **We Gather at the Table**

**Set Your Place at the Table**—Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

### **Hymn**

*As We Gather At Your Table, #695*

**Our Invitation**—Around the table, with cup and jar, plate and bowl, Jesus gathered his disciples for an abundant meal to remember the Passover, the story of God’s liberating love. In sharing the bread and the cup, Jesus offered to his disciples an opportunity to experience God’s saving grace, to change ways, to be shaped and transformed. That invitation extends to us this. Let us gather at the table ready to be shaped and formed by God’s loving hand.

**Our Confession**— Unlike clay, we actively resist the diverse ways you shape us into what the world needs. We frequently struggle to trust in your vision for who we could become. We anxiously avoid facing the heat that protects and sustains us. We humbly confess to these and all our shortcomings.

*<silent confession>*. Amen.+

**Assurance of Grace**— God graciously chooses us despite our self-destructive ways. God repeatedly mends our broken places and unceasingly delivers us from harm toward wholeness. All thanks be to God!+

**The Words of Institution**— On the night in which he gave himself up for us,

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God’s love...

**Blessing Our Meal**—God, you are the potter and we are the clay. We pray that as we gather around this table we might be shaped by your hand. Mold us, form us, strengthen us that we might be nourished to do your work in this world. Send your Holy Spirit to enliven this bread and this cup that it might be a blessing for us. Amen.

**We Share the Bread and the Cup** – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

**We Give Thanks**—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.=

## **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**— The cost of discipleship is bold and radical. It requires a countercultural giving of possessions and self. Let us risk the safety of ordinary and choose to build with God by sharing our tithes, offerings, and our very selves.+

**September Benevolence**—Chicago, United, and Eden (CUE)

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate)

## **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**— Holy Giver of all Gifts, we thank you for this opportunity to share our gifts and participate in the various ministries you've placed before this faith community. Bless these monies and each one of us as we go back out to continue your work in the world. Amen.+

## **Hymn**

*Have Thine Own Way, Lord, #486*

**Benediction**—Before your birth, you were wonderfully and fearfully formed. Like clay, may God continue to reform and reshape you into your truest self, now and every day after. Amen.+

## **Postlude**

*Andante Marziale*