



**Worship Leader's Guide  
October 6, 2024  
Week 5**

**“Malice Toward None: Love”**

Accompanist: Sue Woods; Song Leaders: Cheryl Doty & Abby Worley  
Acolytes: Kate Thuma & Madison Conley

**COMING TOGETHER  
Pre-Worship Video**

**Welcome**

Welcome to our KVOE listeners and those watching online. My name is **Aubrey Anderson** and this morning I am your worship reader. Welcome to Emporia First United Methodist Church. We are all beloved children of God. Together, we are a Christian community committed to accepting, valuing, and loving all. we seek to live, grow, and serve as Jesus taught us: loving one another. Let us now worship.

**Prelude with Acolytes entering and Lighting Candles**

Acolytes: **Kate Thuma & Madison Conley**

**Re-Orientation**

*(Pastor Amanda Baker)*

*Leader:* As this series draws to a close, we may feel more or less resolved in our openness to each other. Loving our neighbors—including relatives, coworkers, acquaintances, strangers—as ourselves is no simple task. We need God. We need the love of God to show us mercy and strength to love as God loves. We need the story of Jesus—the one who loved across the lines that had been drawn in the society of his day but who also stood up for the least and the lost. We need faith that no matter the strain of differing positions, policies, and politics, we will move forward in love. Disagreeing need not be antithetical to love and grace. And indeed, our world depends on all of us

working for a better world filled with more kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love.

*“Christ Has Broken Down the Wall”  
(also available as “Love Has Broken Down the Wall”  
and available in hymnals W&S 3122 or VT 174)*

**Christ has broken down the wall.  
Christ has broken down the wall.  
Let us join our hearts as one,  
Christ has broken down the wall.**

*Leader:* The act of simply coming together is “revolutionary,” which in its earliest form meant “finding a course around a central point.” We gather around the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our “love revolution.” Let us pray:

Loving and Hope-filled God,  
we ask you to stay close in our lives  
as we move into an unknown future.  
Wrap us in your love, and invite us  
to go and do likewise—to “do unto others” in ways that build up  
your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,  
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. **Amen.**

**We’re accepted as we are.  
We’re accepted as we are.  
Through God’s power, all is reconciled;  
we’re accepted as we are.**

**Cast aside your doubts and fears.  
Cast aside your doubts and fears.  
Peace and love freely offered here;  
cast aside your doubts and fears.**

## **Peace Across the Divide**

*Youth Reader: It has been an eye-opening experience to be here.*  
*Aubrey Anderson: In the end, I’m still not sure I’m capable of moving closer.*  
*Youth Reader: What if that never happens?*  
*Aubrey Anderson: What if the chasm gets wider?*  
*Youth Reader: But I have begun to imagine a way to live together.*  
*Aubrey Anderson: I know we both are still afraid, but I wish you no harm.*

*Leader:* Wait.  
**People: Breathe.**  
*Leader:* Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.  
**People: Breathe again.**  
*Leader:* We are not alone.  
**People: Christ is with us.**

*Leader:* Let us take a deep breath together...  
The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same.  
Our desire for life and love is the same.  
Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same.  
Let this moment permeate our souls,  
and let us pass the peace of Christ between us.  
This peace is meant for all people.

*Leader:* The peace of Christ be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

## Opening Hymn/Song

*"How He Loves Us":*

<https://tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/tab/david-crowderband/how-he-loves-chords-847349>

## PROCLAIMING REALLY GOOD NEWS

**Children's Time**  
**(Pastor Amanda Baker)**

**Scripture: Aubrey Anderson**

**Matthew 22: 34-40, NRSVUE**

**Aubrey Anderson:** *Jesus names us many times in scripture as "neighbors" to one another. We have been depending on his vision for the neighborliness of humanity as we navigate our own search for "good news." Together, we will continue to find ways to tell deeply good news for all people by filtering our interactions through the lens of love. Today's scripture reminds us that interpretation of the law has always been difficult for humanity. We have never been of one mind. But as we have heard in this series, what we put into the world is part of the ongoing creation of the world. Is it possible to put love out there as always the first impulse for interpretation?*

**Aubrey Anderson:** *When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

*Reader:* A word of God for our times.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

## The Word in Music

**Musical Offering: "Sing Wherever I Go" FUMC Children/Youth**

*by Ed Cash, Scott Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Andrew Bergthold, and Kyle Briskin*

## Sermon

*"Malice Toward None: LOVE!"*

[Pastor Ross Baker](#)

## RESPONDING WITH ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

### Prayer Song

*"Ubi Caritas"*

TFWS2179, VT 773,

### Prayers of "the Disheveled"

[\(Pastor Amanda Baker\)](#)

*Leader:* Jesus often said, "Go and sin no more." Healing is possible, but "staying the course" takes a lot of effort. And we are at times more or less successful at offering an alternative narrative to fear and division as the Body of Christ. We come to prayer today as those who lament that common ground is not easily found. We find ourselves off balance and disheveled from navigating the life of rocky and uneven paths and gaping potholes that threaten to swallow up our best efforts. We come together in this moment to honor each person's attempt at making sense of sometimes senseless circumstances. We respect the efforts, even if we don't all see eye to eye about the kind of effort required. And so we pray together the prayers of the people, for when there is suffering or joy, we all are part of the Body that experiences it.

We pray for a sense of stability,  
**for ourselves and others.**

We pray for safety on the journey,  
**for ourselves and others.**

We pray for the spiritual capacity for respect,  
**for ourselves and others.**

We pray for transformation of suffering to joy,  
**for ourselves and others.**

Holy, Loving, God of Us All...

### Offering

[Pastor Amanda Baker](#)

### Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Praise God all creatures here below!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Help us to work together well,  
off'ring our love to all the world.**

**Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Communion

## Announcements

## RIPPLING FORTH

*[Pastor Amanda Baker](#)*: Actions create ripples of reactions. We move into the world praying that the result of our worshipful work will create actions of love that extend far beyond our knowing. Let's just see what can happen when we turn up the volume of kindness and treat others as we would hope to be treated. Let us Do Unto Others with ever deepening understanding that lasts far beyond this moment in history. Let us continue into the unknown future with hope that we can survive, we can thrive, together—no matter the outcomes of a divided world. Let us sing our closing hymn/song as a way of beginning to ripple forth from here, spreading love wherever we go.

## Hymn/Song of Going into the World

*[They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love](#)    [TFWS 2223](#)*

## Benediction

May the Holy One show you the way  
to Do Unto Others with Respect.

May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is  
ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love.

May the Spirit show forth through you  
in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve.

And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding,  
especially when it is difficult to understand.

And the people said, "**Amen!**"

**We will tear down the walls.  
We will tear down every wall.  
God has called us one and all;  
Christ has broken down the wall,  
Christ has broken down the wall.**

## Postlude