



March 30, 2025 9:30 am

Co-Pastors: Rev. Ross Baker and Rev. Amanda Baker

Worship Musicians: Cheryl Doty, Abby Worley, & Sue Woods

Ministry of Music: [Mic McGuire](#)

Acolytes: Lucy Barrett & Madison Conley

4th Sunday of Lent

Gathering

Welcome

Welcome to our KVOE listeners and to those watching online.

My name is **Sara Bashaw**, and I am your worship reader this morning.

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, transforming lives, and making disciples.

Let us now worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Sara Bashaw

One: You are invited to the feast of plenty. Let every willing soul join in the circle!

All: The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.

One: Wear whatever you have. You are welcome as you are!

All: The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.

One: At this celebration, no one is turned away. There is a place for you!

All: The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

Prayer of Confession

[Rev. Amanda Baker]

Often, we choose ease or familiarity over inclusion.
Let us confess our sins of exclusion together.

**God of extravagant feasts and open invitations,
we confess our tables are often small and exclusive.
When we should stretch our welcome to others,
we limit seats to those we find useful, acceptable, or entertaining.
We make plans without accommodating everyone's needs.
We choose to leave people out
rather than express boundaries that might feel uncomfortable.
We choose a shallow sense of peace
rather than the deep peace that comes after hard, healing conversations.**

**While you do not require us to include people who cause us to feel unsafe or at risk,
You do call us to welcome people we find different, difficult, or annoying.
Give us good discernment to include those who challenge us
and expand our capacity for compassion so we might love our neighbors as you love us.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in faith, hear this good news:

God is faithful to increase our compassion, expand our invitations, and increase our patience with others. Receive God's pardon and be at peace.

Passing of the Peace

One: Beneath the mantle of peace, Jesus, the bread of life, provides a bounty of fellowship, care, and connection.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Take a moment to greet others with the peace of Christ, which inspires us to care for the needs of our community.

Opening Hymn

["Gather Us In" TFWS 2236](#)

Proclamation

The Children Show Us the Way

"Jesus Loves Me"

Children's Time- Rev. Amanda Baker

Scripture Reading

Luke 14:7-14 NRSVUE

Sara Bashaw

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Word in Music

“This Day” by Lowell Alexander - Mic McGuire Accompanied by Pam McGuire

Sermon

[Rev. Ross Baker]

“Bread for Sharing”

Response

Bread of Life by Andrea Hamilton and Amanda Meisenheimer - LYRICS BELOW

Prayers of the People

[Rev. Amanda Baker]

One: Loving God, you gather us all at your table of grace. Thank you for welcoming us just as we are and teaching us to live and love more like Jesus. We are able to love others because you first loved us and made space for us in your holy family.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: God of welcome, you provide for all you’ve created with generosity and care. We pray for those who hunger for food, for justice, and for belonging. Move us to share what we have with open hands and open invitations. May no one go without the nourishment that sustains life.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: God of welcome, you teach us to invite the outsider, to make room for the stranger, and to honor those overlooked by the world. Though we are tempted to seek only places of privilege and people with power, help us follow Christ’s example by welcoming those who cannot repay us and building a community where all are valued.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: God of welcome, you call us to take the lower seat when we find ourselves in positions of power, the last place in line when we discover privilege in our pockets, and the final speaking position when our voices are favored. May we find joy in standing

back so others may find their way into inner circles. Shape us into a community that makes that kind of space for others.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: Your kin(g)dom is a feast for all people. We pray for your church to become more like your table—wide enough for every story, every struggle, and every soul. Unite us in your love and send us out to embody your radical welcome in the world.

Through Christ, the bread of life, hear us as we now pray as Christ taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Offering

[Offertory]

Doxology

[Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 95](#)

Prayer of Dedication

Bread of life and source of all good things, receive these gifts and offerings in your generous hands. May they serve your church and our community, expanding the message of your love and grace to all who hunger and thirst.

Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn/Song

"Come As You Are" [lyrics below](#)

Benediction

Go now into the world brimming with love for God and others.
May you share the bread of life,
offering not only what sustains the body but what nourishes the soul.
Live your lives serving in the way of Jesus,
extending compassion to the weary,
hope to the despairing,
and bread to the hungry.
As you go, may the love of God enfold you,
the peace of Christ guide you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Forth Song

"Trees of the Field"

TFWS 2279

Postlude