

Celebration of Word and Table  
**The 135<sup>th</sup> North Georgia Annual Conference**  
The United Methodist Church  
The Classic Center Grand Hall  
Athens, Georgia

Tuesday Afternoon

June 12, 2001

2:00 p.m.

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*All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.*

PRELUDE

Tom Alderman, *organist*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Doctor J. Harold Smith

All who hunger, come and keep the feast.

**We are hungry. Hungry for truth, hungry for joy, hungry for peace.**

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

**We are hungry. Hungry for friendship and love.**

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM

Festival Of Peace on Saint Anne  
Athens First United Methodist Choir

arr. Austin Lovelace

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47

SERMON

*Will You Come To The Table?* The Reverend Bridgette Young

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Reverend Doctor J. Harold Smith

**God of Glory, whose wondrous works are ever before us, we thank you for  
the hidden treasure of your Word. With great joy, we would discover anew  
the riches of heaven. Equip us to be both learners and teachers in your**

**realm, which is being revealed to us in this community of faith. Let all hearts rejoice as we share gladly what we are discovering.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Thee, Will I Love*

Craig Courtney

Athens First United Methodist Choir

HYMN

*All Who Hunger*

INVITATION

Bishop G. Lindsey Davis

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins,  
and are in love and charity with your neighbors,  
and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God  
and walking henceforth in his holy ways:  
Draw near with faith, and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort,  
and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies.  
We are not worthy that you should receive us,  
but give your word and we shall be healed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God as we keep the feast.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise, for all around us is our food.**

Taste and see the grace eternal.

**Taste and see that God is good.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You made us in your image  
and set us in a lush garden as caretakers.

When we turned away from you,  
our freedom to toil.

When we cried out in misery,  
you delivered us from captivity  
and made covenant to be our Sovereign God.

By the prophets, you called us to turn back to you  
and delight in good food without price.

You confronted us with the waste of laboring without you,  
and you asked us,

“Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?”

Incline your ear, and come to me;

Listen, so that you may live.”

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Anointed with your Spirit,  
his food was to do your will and to complete it.  
He took the common things of daily life,  
blessed them, and broke and shared them  
so that all were satisfied.  
He told those who followed him,  
“Do not work for the food that perishes,  
but for the food that endures for eternal life.”  
He confronted the powers of evil and greed  
at the cost of his life,  
but you triumphed over death  
and placed him at your right hand  
to intercede for his disciples until the feast of eternal life.  
By water and the Spirit he calls us to continue his work,  
Until we all feast at his heavenly banquet.

On the night in which he gave himself 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, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to live daily as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

This is the bread of life.

This is the cup of salvation.  
Come to the feast prepared for all who hunger.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Breaking of the Bread*  
Athens First United Methodist Choir

Austin Lovelace

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

CLOSING HYMN

CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

POSTLUDE

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Tom Alderman, *organist*

Bishop C

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\*The people standing as they are able.