

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *A Service of Word and Table*

*The Season after Pentecost*

*September 7, 2008*

### ✠ WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD ✠



*As we gather in worship this morning, the most powerful and revealing symbols of our faith stand before us: water and table and cross. The water reveals the cleansing and restorative power of God's love. The table reveals a love that strengthens and nourishes those who feed from it. The cross reminds us with mute eloquence of God's passionate concern for humanity. Indeed, the cross reveals a love tangible as wood, extensive as eternity ...*

*We praise the God who speaks to us through water and table and cross. Welcome to worship.*

### THE PRELUDE

“Aria”

Handel

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### THE INTROIT

“Holy Ground”

Beatty

*The Chancel Choir*

### \*THE WORD OF GRACE (responses appear in bold type)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Christ has prepared a feast of love.**

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN “O Spirit of the Living God” (verses 1, 2 & 4) No. 539

### \*THE OPENING PRAYER

**THE FIRST READING** (*Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18* ✠ *pew bible, OT p.552*)

**CONFESSION & PARDON**

*All pray in unison:*

**Gracious God,**

our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide,  
and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us  
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more  
in your likeness and image,  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

*All offer prayers of confession in silence.*

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### THE GOOD NEWS FOR CHILDREN

### THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

**THE OFFERTORY** “More Love to Thee, O Christ”

**\*THE DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*THE HYMN OF GRACE** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” (verses 1, 2 and 4) No. 402

### THE PASTORAL PRAYER

**\*THE SECOND READING** (*Jeremiah 18:1-11* ✠ *pew bible, OT p.678*)

### THE ANTHEM

“Come and Feast”

Dengler

Sara Ryan

Doane

No. 94

**THE SERMON**

“The Potter’s House”

**Rev. Tom**

**\*THE HYMN OF PEACE**

“Holy Spirit, Heart of Grace”

**See Insert**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** (*UM hymnal, p.15*)

*We will celebrate the Eucharist by intinction. Simply take the bread and lightly touch it to the wine (grape juice), receiving both elements at once. As you see persons coming forward for communion, ask God to surround them with his healing, life-sustaining presence. Give thanks for that person and if you are aware of their needs or concerns, ask the God to give them his grace and lead them in his love.*

**\*THE PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION**

Blessed be God who calls us together.

**Praise to God who makes us one.**

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

**Praise to God who gives us hope.**

Blessed be God whose Word is made flesh.

**Praise to God who is revealed as Love.**

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**We offer him all that we are and all that we shall become.**

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

**Accept our thanks for all you have done.**

**Our hands were empty, and you have filled them.**

**\*THE HYMN OF LOVE**

2060

“Let Us Be Bread”

(*thin black hymnal*) No.

**\*THE LEADING OF THE LIGHT**

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**THE RESPONSE** “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” (*TFWS*) No. 2129

*The choir and congregation sing the first verse of the beloved spiritual “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.*

**I have decided to follow Jesus,**

**I have decided to follow Jesus,**

**I have decided to follow Jesus**

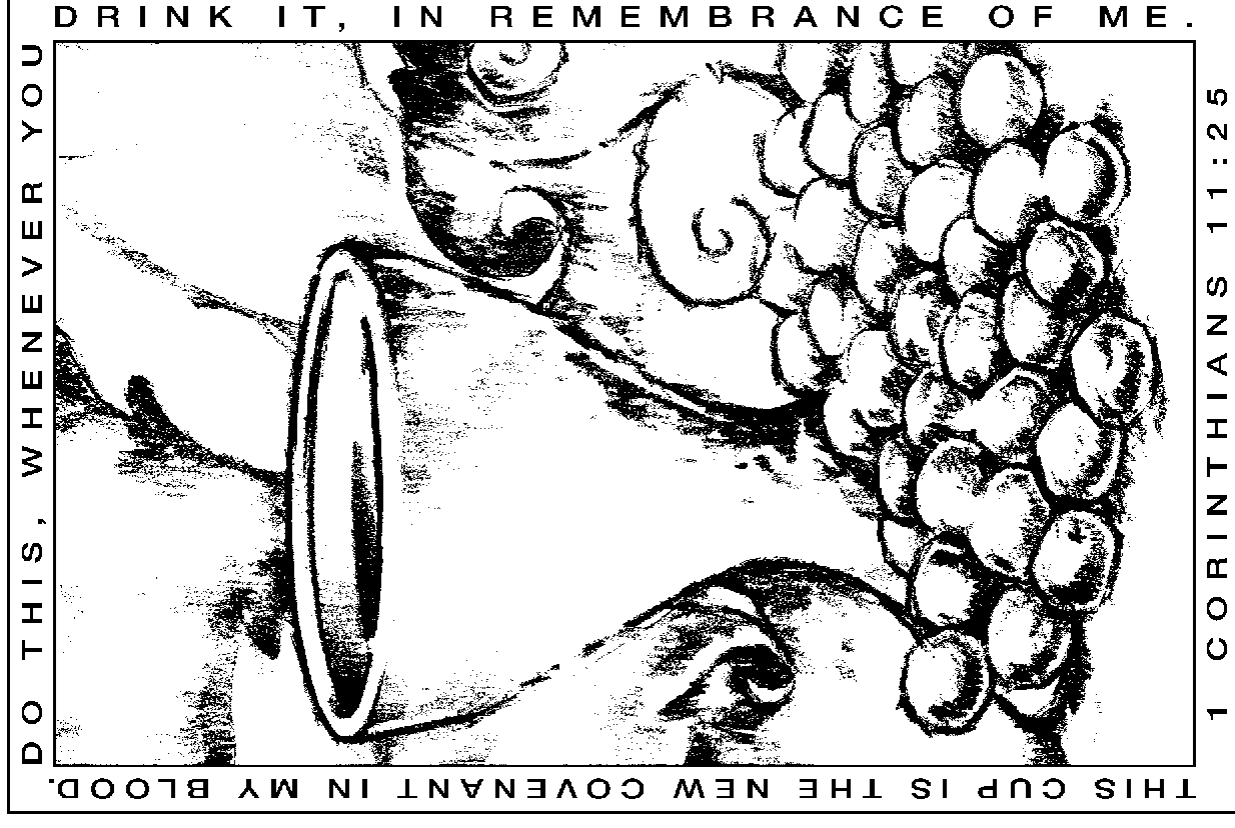
**no turning back, no turning back.**

**\*THE POSTLUDE**

“March”

**Peeters**

(\*)*Those who are able may stand.*



*First United Methodist Church, South Charleston  
A Service of Word & Table ✠ September 7, 2008*