

A photograph of a rustic, oval-shaped loaf of bread covered in various seeds, resting on a dark wooden surface. To the right of the bread is a glass of red wine. The text 'THE SACRAMENT OF' is in a simple white font, while 'Holy Communion' is in a large, elegant white script font, both overlaid on the image.

THE SACRAMENT OF

*Holy  
Communion*

**Worship Service with Holy Communion  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Castro Valley United Methodist Church  
19806 Wisteria Street  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

**Welcome to Castro Valley  
United Methodist Church.**

We are thankful you are here! May the God of hope fill you with abundant joy and peace.



**ALERT FOR THIS WEEK**

As part of needed campus work, circuit breaker panels will be replaced in all locations during this next week resulting in temporary power outages.

**GATHERINGS THIS WEEK**

**NO Tuesday Friends This Week**  
Return Tue. 9/16

**Food 2 Go**

Tue. 10:30 am, Fellowship Hall  
Help needed & food available

**Trustees Meeting**

Tue. 7 pm, Fireside Room

**Bible Study, Prayer &  
Fellowship**

Wed. 10 am, Fireside Room

**Capital Campaign Project  
Loan Q&A**

Wed. 6 pm via Zoom  
Meeting ID: 752 414 7720  
Passcode: 510

**Choir Practice**

Thur. 7 pm, Fireside Room

**Kumi Benefit Dinner**

Fri. 5 pm  
Pacific Lighthouse, Alameda  
Reach out to the Office for info

**Special Charge Conference**

Capital Campaign Project Loan and  
Candidate for Ordained Ministry  
Sun. 11:30 am, 9/14  
Fireside Room

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

(08) Phillip Annas  
(10) Carol Low  
(11) Larry Birdsey



**Order of Christian Worship  
Holy Communion and Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Chiming of the Hour**

Jane Yin

**Prelude**

Matt Bourne

**Words of Welcome**

Pastor Akesa

**\*Call to Worship**

Ray Wheatley

Come, people of God—bring your prayers, your needs, your questions.

**We come with faith, believing that God hears and answers.**

Let us not be like waves tossed by the wind, shaken by doubt.

**We will stand firm in our trust, grounded in God's promises.**

God calls us to be single-minded in our devotion, unwavering in our belief.

**With hearts set on Christ, we gather to worship in spirit and in truth.**

**We believe, Lord—help our unbelief. Strengthen our faith as  
we worship you!**

**\*Opening Prayer (unison)**

Ray Wheatley

Faithful God, we come before you this day seeking your wisdom and presence. You have called us to ask in faith, without doubting—to trust in your goodness and to believe in your promises. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have been tossed by the winds of doubt; for the moments when uncertainty has clouded our vision and weakened our steps. Help us to be rooted in Your truth and single-minded in our devotion. That our faith is in you and not in what we see or what doubts hold us back from trusting in you fully. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, our solid rock, we pray. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn: *Open My Eyes, That I May See***

UMH 454

Please use the red hymnal or follow along on the screen.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Karen Parker

Peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn Response: *This Little Light of Mine*

UMH 585

(singing) *This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,*

*this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;*

*this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;*

*let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

**Children's Moment**

Pastor Akesa

Hymn Response: *Father, I Adore You*

TFWS 2038

(singing) *Father, I adore you, lay my life before you, how I love you.*

*Jesus, I adore you, lay my life before you, how I love you.*

\*You may stand. \***Bold** text indicates congregational response.



### James 1:6-8 NIV

<sup>6</sup>But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup>Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

This is the Word of God,  
for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### WORSHIP RESOURCES

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal  
TFWS: The Faith We Sing  
W&S: Worship and Song  
Discipleship Ministries  
CCLI No. 21060178

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Akesa Po'oi Fakava, Pastor  
Karen Parker, Co-Lay Leader  
Ray Wheatley, Worship Leader  
Matt Bourne, Music Director  
Jane Yin, Bells  
Rev. Carrol Newquist, Horn  
Noel Babu, Sound  
Larry Taylor, Media Tech  
Siotame Fakava, Usher  
Jane Yin & Jann Carpenter,  
Communion Stewards

### Life of the Community

Ray Wheatley

### Prayers of the People

Ray Wheatley

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**  
Loving God, **we give you thanks.**

### Anthem: "In Remembrance of Me"

Chancel Choir

by Buryl Red and Ragan Courtney

### Scripture: James 1:6-8 NIV

Ray Wheatley

### Sermon: Faith over doubt

Pastor Akesa

### \*The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

*The Doxology No. 94:* 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!

### *Unison Prayer of Dedication:*

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### The Great Thanksgiving

UMH 13

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.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving 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 Father, now and forever.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn:** *Spirit of Faith, Come Down*

UMH 332 vv 1,3&4

Please use the red hymnal or follow along on the screen.

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Akesa

**Postlude**

Matt Bourne

Please reflect in silence on today's message or exit quietly.



**FOLLOWING JESUS • THRIVING IN COMMUNITY • HEALING THE WORLD**

19806 Wisteria St. Castro Valley, CA 94546 | 510-581-3486 | [www.castrovalleyumc.org](http://www.castrovalleyumc.org)

Pastor: [pastorakesa@castrovalleyumc.org](mailto:pastorakesa@castrovalleyumc.org)

Office: [office@castrovalleyumc.org](mailto:office@castrovalleyumc.org)