

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

July 23, 2023

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - *Gabriel's Oboe* - Ennio Morricone

Call to Worship

This is none other than the house of God. This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. It is so high we cannot attain it.

Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Opening Hymn 75** - *All people That On Earth Do Dwell*

*All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.*

*Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.*

*For why! the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.*

*To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God, whom heav'n and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host,
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.*

Invocation

Caretaker of our souls, you search us and know us; you are acquainted with all of our ways. Your Spirit hems us in, behind and before. You discern our thoughts from afar. If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead us, and your might shall hold us fast. How can we bear such wonder? How can we fathom such awe and splendor? Breathe your Spirit upon us, and claim us as children of light, that we might be found worthy of your love and care. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-12,23-24 (Old Testament p.577/545)

LORD, you have seen what is in my heart.

You know all about me.

²You know when I sit down and when I get up.

You know what I'm thinking even though you are far away.

³You know when I go out to work and when I come back home.

You know exactly how I live.

⁴LORD, even before I speak a word,

you know all about it.

⁵You are all around me, behind me and in front of me.

You hold me safe in your hand.

⁶I'm amazed at how well you know me.

It's more than I can understand.

⁷How can I get away from your Spirit?

Where can I go to escape from you?

⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there.

If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there.

⁹Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east.

Suppose I travel to the west where it sinks into the ocean.

¹⁰Your hand would always be there to guide me.

Your right hand would still be holding me close.

¹¹Suppose I were to say, "I'm sure the darkness will hide me.

The light around me will become as dark as night."

¹²Even that darkness would not be dark to you.

The night would shine like the day,

because darkness is like light to you.

God, see what is in my heart.

Know what is there.

Test me.

Know what I'm thinking.

²⁴See if there's anything in my life you don't like.

Help me live in the way that is always right.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gloria Patri (sung)**

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Anthem - Surely the Presence -Joel Raney

Rejoice, O church of God, rejoice, give thanks and sing. Rejoice in the glory of God; in the cross of Christ, our King.

Rejoice in the power of God; rejoice in the majesty of God, rejoice in the love of God, rejoice in the holy presence of the Lord. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angels wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Take this church and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take our hands and let them move at the impulse of your love. Surely the love of Christ is in this place; we can sense the Holy Spirit, and the wonder of God's grace. And our hearts are overflowing with the fullness of God's joy, and we feel the holy presence of the Lord. Rejoice, O church, of God, rejoice, give thanks and sing!

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:1-8 (New Testament p.152/151)

Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him in the right way. Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

God's grace has been given to me. So here is what I say to every one of you. Don't think of yourself more highly than you should. Be reasonable when you think about yourself. Keep in mind the faith God has given to each of you. Each of us has one body with many parts. And the parts do not all have the same purpose. So also we are many persons. But in Christ we are one body. And each part of the body belongs to all the other parts. We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us. Do you have the gift of prophecy? Then use it according to the faith you have. If your gift is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. Is it encouraging others? Then encourage them. Is it giving to others? Then give freely. Is it being a leader? Then work hard at it. Is it showing mercy? Then do it cheerfully.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – *Serving the Lord With Gladness*

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response **- Jesus Paid it All

*I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."*

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

*For nothing good have I
Where-by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.*

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

*And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.*

Jesus paid it all,

All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - March from "Floridante" - G. F. Handel

Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People/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.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Closing Hymn 328** - *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling*

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.*

Refrain:

*Come home, come home;
ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!*

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?
(Refrain)*

*Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me.
(Refrain)*

*O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.
(Refrain)*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn 328)

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angels wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Postlude - *Fugue in D Major* - J.S. Bach



**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in memory of Tom Cully by Barb Cully and family**

Service Music: Summer Choir; Chad Wagner, trumpet; Josiah and Kristen van Dyck, oboe and violin.

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

Serving Jesus is about Sacrifice: The Heart of Worship

Romans 12:1–We are MOTIVATED to serve in view of God’s mercy.

Serving Jesus means we have The Mind of Service

Romans 12:2 – Our minds are transformed from Consumer to Servant.

Serving Jesus means we have The Hands of Service

Romans 12:4-6 – With our heart and minds centered on Christ, action is a nature by-produce.

Service is more than “something we do.” It is WHO WE ARE. And service is more than “what we do” it is “HOW WE DO IT”

Questions for Reflection: What are my thoughts about serving others? How will this passage transform those thoughts in the future? What are some ways I can renew my mind daily?

Questions for Discussion: What are some ways I can serve God this week? How is God calling me to serve those close to me more like Christ?

Memory Verse: Romans 12:1b. “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship”.

Readings for this week: Psalm 139, Romans 8:12=25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

CHURCH NOTES

Visitation Team: We are looking for folks who would like to help visit our shut-ins, hospital patients and those in nursing homes, preferably monthly. There is no counseling involved, it is simply to keep them in contact with their church family. If you like to socialize with others, please contact Pastor Pippin to let him know so we can add you to the team.

Paid Position Open: We are looking for a childcare worker for Sunday mornings (9:15 - 10:45 a.m.) this summer and Sunday mornings (9:15 - 11:45 a.m. and evenings (TBD) starting in the fall. You would be caring for infants through age 3. This is a paid position - \$14/hour for the first month and then \$15/hour. If interested, contact Kathy Kuzas for an application.

Nursery Help: As we proceed through the summer, we are in need of people who will volunteer to work in the nursery on Sunday mornings while we continue to look for a paid staff person. (We are now able to stream the church service on a tv in the Nursery.) Please contact Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379 if you are able to help.

Christmas In July: Acts of Grace, in conjunction with the Children's ROCK program, are collecting items each month in an effort to pack 100 shoeboxes for Christmas. The items for July are: Pens, pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners, and small (3x5") spiral notebooks. In addition we are in need of standard-sized shoeboxes for packing the items. Please leave the boxes at the Welcome Center anytime from now until the end of October.

Wesley Camp: All 4th - 6th graders are invited to attend Wesley Camp from August 11-13. It will take place at Peniel Holiness Camp in Conneautville PA. The cost is \$125 per person - bring a friend and you and the friend each get \$25 off of the cost. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center. They should be turned in, with payment, by Sunday, July 23.

Volunteers: On occasion, volunteers are needed for small projects around the church, such as trimming shrubs, weeding, painting, etc. If you are interested, please give your email address to Bob Boltz or email him at rboltz@kent.edu.

Good Neighbors: Good Neighbors is requesting the following items for the upcoming school year: pens (black and red), colored pencils, dry erase markers, regular markers (thick and thin), crayons (24 pack), mechanical pencils, binders (1 inch), composition books, and regular pencils. If you are able to donate any of these, please put them in the bin outside the church library.

Lighthouse Church: First Church was recently designated by the Conference as a "Lighthouse Church" because of our commitment to the continuing mission of Jesus through the United Methodist Church. Anyone who is interested in participating in this ministry should attend the training classes:

July 31: 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m. ""Lighthouse Church- Hospitality"" with Jason Moore covers so much with both in person hospitality and online!

Sept 12 or 13: 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m. ""Leading Through Change with Grief Therapy Tools"" led by Rev Laura White will help us all lead better by honing our use of grief therapy tools.

If you are interested in attending any of these events, contact Pastor Pippin to get registered.

Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman: The Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again this fall with this 10 week study of Esther, by Beth Moore. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seem overpowering, this is the study for you. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. You may choose between Tuesday night (7 - 9 p.m.) or Wednesday morning (10 a.m.

- noon.) Please contact Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com to register. The cost of the workbook is \$15 and is due at the time of registration. The study will begin on October 3/4 and the deadline for registration is Friday, September 15.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JULY 23, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Behrman family Jim Bailey Bill Blank Mark & Cindy Blaser Larry Brimlow Jeanette Carlson	Don Corbett Steve Donahue family Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes Phil Hennen	Scott Hipkins Lee Minier Jack Nitzsche Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw Bonnie Shultz Ken Tunstall
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