

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30 a.m. Sunday 18 October 2026
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements: *(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)*

*Greeting^:

The Lord reigns; let the earth tremble!

Let us praise God's great and terrible name!

Come and worship at the footstool of the Lord,

For holy is the Lord! *(Psalm 99)*

Praise Choruses: 3124 "How Shall I Come Before the Lord"
2087 "We Will Glorify the King of Kings"

*Opening Prayer**:

Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us

so God's Spirit is ever present and around us.

Come, Creator into our lives.

We live and move and have our very being in you.

Open now the windows of our souls. Amen.

*(United Methodist Clergywomen's Consultation,
U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)*

*Opening Hymn: 699 "Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 393 "Spirit of the Living God"

First Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23

Psalter: 819 *Psalm 99*

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

*Hymn of Preparation: 400 "Come, Thou Fount
of Every Blessing"

(2)

*Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Sermon

Litany for Laity Sunday**:

From the beginning, God entered into covenant
with the human family.

**Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us into the covenant
and makes us ministers of Christ's righteousness.**

The Church, as the community of the new covenant
participates in Christ's ministry of grace.

It stretches out to human needs

wherever service may convey God's love and ours.

In our ministry of servanthood is this ultimate concern:

**That all may be renewed in the image of their Creator
and that all Christians are called to minister
in deeds and words that heal and free. Amen.**

Children's Time

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

*The Peace: Let us offer one another signs
of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

*Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving: 85 "Thank You, Lord"

(3)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 698 "God of the Ages"

Blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord makes his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;

**the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.**

(Numbers 6:24-26)

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

**The United Methodist Book of Worship, *Copyright (C) 1992*

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