

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 21 June 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew).

*Greeting**:
Lift up your voice.

God hears the cry of the faithful.

Sing praise to Christ.

Christ's name is worthy of praise.

Turn now to God.

God awaits us here.

*Praise Choruses: 2248 "Baptized in Water"

2146 "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

*Opening Prayer**:
Holy One, come to us now.

Be present in our worship and in our lives.

Hear our cries, and speak to our souls.

Give to us your strength, that we may live

all the days of our lives

in steadfast love and hope. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: 660: "God Is Here"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination^:

We believe, O Lord,

that you have not abandoned us

to the dim light of our own reason

to conduct us to happiness,

but that you have revealed in Holy Scriptures

whatever is necessary for us to believe and practice.

How noble and excellent are the precepts,

how sublime and enlightening the truth,

how persuasive and strong the motives,

(2)

how powerful the assistance of your holy religion.

Our delight shall be in your statutes,

and we will not forget your Word. Amen.

(Richard Allen, African Methodist Episcopal Bishop,

U.S.A., 19th Cent., Alt.)

First Lesson: Genesis 21:8-21

Psalter: *(Insert, alternate leader and people)* Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

*Hymn of Preparation: 140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 887 "Affirmation from Romans 8:35,37-39"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Father's Day Prayer**:

God, our Creator,

we give you thanks for those who have been fathers to us.

Help us to inherit from them

that which will make us more fully your people.

Where they have offered us blessings of love,

may we incorporate those gifts into our lives.

Where they have hurt us or fallen short of our expectations,

may we learn from them,

that we might not repeat their mistakes.

May the honor we convey toward our fathers

reflect the honor that we feel toward you. Amen.

From Worship in Daily Life © Discipleship Resources

*The Peace^:

Hold one another close, that in this fellowship

(3)

we may know the presence of God.

Share signs of God's love

as you pass the peace of Christ this day. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation^: As we bring our needs and our prayers, we also bring our gifts and our service to God. **All of these are offerings,**

placed in trust as we strive to partner with God. Bring your offerings this day, but bring also your anguish and your needs.

For in all of these things, God is with us. God can act. God will work through us and with us.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving^:

God of many miracles,

**transform these gifts into great works of love
and wondrous acts of ministry and grace.**

In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 377: "It Is Well with My Soul"

*Benediction^: Though we have been cast aside,

God restores our future.

Though others seek to banish us from sight,

God blesses us with opportunities for new life.

Go with the blessings of the One who loves us fiercely.

Amen

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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