

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 23 August 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE

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

*Greeting**:

Come to Christ, that living stone,
rejected by the world, but in God's sight
chosen and precious.

**We have responded to Christ's call,
and seek to be built into a spiritual house,
a living reminder of God's presence on earth.**

Once we were no people, but now we are God's people,
called out of the darkness into God's marvelous light.

Therefore we sing with the Church in all ages:

Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer.

**By your mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

(Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)

*Opening Prayer**:

All-merciful, tender God, you have given birth to our world,
conceiving and bearing all that lives and breathes.

**We come to you as your daughters and sons,
aware of our aggression and anger,
our drive to dominate and manipulate others.**

**We ask you to forgive us,
and by the gentle touch of your Spirit
help us to find a renewed sense of compassion,
that we may truly live as your people in service to all. Amen.**

(Janet Weller, England, 20th Cent., Alt.)

*Opening Hymn: 157 "Jesus Shall Reign"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

Psalter : 846 Psalm 124

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Second Lesson : Romans 12 :1-8

*Hymn of Preparation: 2120 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 880 "The Nicene Creed"

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

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving **:

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

(The Book of Worship 1965, Alt.)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

(3)

*Closing Hymn: 368 "My Hope Is Built"

*Closing Prayer: 607 "A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan
Tradition"

*Extinguishing of candles, Postlude, Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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