

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 16 August 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

Greeting: Let us come together and worship the Lord.

Let us raise our voices as one in praise.

How good it is to live together in unity!

The Lord blesses our life for evermore.

(After Psalm 133)

*Opening Prayer^:

Remember, Prince of Peace, the peoples of the world
divided into many nations and tongues.

Deliver us from every evil
that obstructs your saving purpose,
and fulfill your promises of old
to establish your kingdom of peace.

**From putting our trust in the weapons of war,
and from want of faith
in the power of justice and good will,**

Good Lord, deliver us.

**From every thought, word, and deed
within the human family
which separates us from the perfect realization
of your love,**

Good Lord, deliver us.

Amen. *(England, 20th Cent., Alt.)*

*Opening Hymn: 557 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15

Psalter: 850 Psalm 133

Second Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 15:10-28

Sermon: *"God meant it for good."*

Affirmation of Faith: 886 "The World Methodist Social
Affirmation"

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, Confession, and Intercession:

Almighty and everlasting God, you are one God
and have made us to be one people.

**You bless our lives day by day,
and we come before you to sing our praises to you.**
By our actions and words

we have prevented the sharing of the good news.

**Pour out anew the gift of your Holy Spirit,
that we may be filled with fresh vision
to share your saving power
with all the nations of the world.**

We remember our friends, and the friends of others,
who are possessed by the demons of the present day.

**Show your mercy to those who labor
under the weight of sickness
that seeks to destroy the body, the mind, and the spirit.**

**Give hope to the hopeless, and help us to be
friends to the friendless.**

**Hear us as one voice, one people,
and accept our gifts and ourselves as your disciples,
your ambassadors,**

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 560 "Help Us Accept Each Other"

*Dismissal^: Serve your God with patience and passion.

Be deliberate in enacting your faith.

Be steadfast in celebrating the Spirit's power.

And may peace be your way in the world.

Amen. (*Glen E. Rainsley, U.S.A., 20th Cent.*)

***Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude**

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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