

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 18 October 2020

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday

(2)

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements:

*Greeting: *Litany for Laity Sunday*

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

with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah,
Moses, Deborah, Ruth, and Jeremiah.

**Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us
into the covenant**

and makes us ministers of Christ's righteousness.

All Christian ministry is Christ's work of outreaching love.
It demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion,
witness and service, celebration and discipleship.

**All Christians are called to Christ's servanthood
in the world,
to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.**

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.**

(Adapted from The Book of Discipline 1992, Par. 101-07)

*Opening Prayer**:

Almighty and everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you created us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.

**Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose
that no selfish passion may hinder us
from knowing your will,
and no weakness from doing it.**

**In your light may we see life clearly
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen,**
(The Book of Worship 1965, Alt.)

*Opening Hymn: 558 "We Are the Church"

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: 433 (*Tune: 398*) "All Who Love and
Serve Your City"

*Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Sermon: "*Special*"

Affirmation of Faith: 85 "We Believe in One True God"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

(3)

*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: 133 (Verse 1) "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving: 587 (*Tune: 463*) "Bless Thou the Gifts"

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 557 "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

*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

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