

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30 a.m. Sunday 2 July 2023
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Independence Day Sunday

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

*Greeting**:
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
Who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's glorious Name for ever;
May God's glory fill the whole earth. (Psalm 72)

*Praise Choruses: 3150 "Father, We Have Heard You Calling"
2149 "Living for Jesus"

*Opening Prayer: 429 "For Our Country"

*Opening Hymn: 698 "God of the Ages"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 500 *(Verse 1 only)*
"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-14

Psalter: 746 Psalm 13

Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

*Hymn of Preparation: 696 "America the Beautiful"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42

(2)

Sermon: "Freedom"

Affirmation of Faith: 881
"The Apostles' Creed, Traditional Version"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 12ff)
All are welcome

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 437 "This Is My Song"

*Closing Prayer**:
Teach us, God of every nation
to see every question of national policy in the light of our faith,
that we may check in ourselves and in others
every passion that makes for war, all ungenerous judgment,
all promptings of self-assurance, all presumptuous claims.
**Grant us insight to recognize the needs and aspirations
of other nations,
and remove our suspicions and misunderstandings,**

that we may honor all people in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. *(England, 20th Cent., Alt.)*

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

***Going Forth**

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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