

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**8:30 a.m. Sunday 25 June 2023**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**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: 2042 "How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely"

2129 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

\*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,**

(2)

**how persuasive and strong the motives,**

**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: *"We are one."*

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

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

\*The Peace^:

Hold one another close, that in this fellowship

**we may know the presence of God.**

Share signs of God's love

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

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)**

**All are welcome**

**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,

(3)

**God blesses us with opportunities for new life.**

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

**Amen.**

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\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

\*\*The United Methodist Book of Worship, *Copyright (C) 1992*  
*The United Methodist Publishing House.*

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