

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30 a.m. Sunday 16 July 2023
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

(2)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

*Praise Choruses: 2166 "Christ Beside Me"
2076 "O Blessed Spring"

*Greeting**:

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,
so God seeks and saves the lost.

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,
so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

As a father receives a returning wayward son,
so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

Therefore let us praise God with thanksgiving that we are received.

**Let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another
in the name of Jesus Christ.**

(Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20th Century, Alt.)

*Opening Prayer**:

We believe in you, O God,

For you have made the suffering of humanity your suffering.

You have come to establish a kingdom of the poor and humble.

Today we sing to you,

because you are alive, you have saved us,

you have made us free. Amen. (Cuba, 20th Century)

*Opening Hymn: 57 "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Prayer of Confession**:

We are reluctant, O Author of Love,

to set aside our hurt, our anger, our disappointment.

Heal us with your tender touch,

that we might be cleansed of all unclean thoughts,

all schemes of revenge, all hope of vindictive retribution.

Open our eyes to the power of love,

shown to us in the unselfish sacrifice

of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Michael J. O'Donnell, U.S.A., 20th Century)

First Lesson: Genesis 25:19-34

Psalter: *(Insert, alternate leader and people)* Psalm 119:105-112

Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

*Hymn of Preparation: 2158 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sermon: *"This, too..."*

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

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.

(3)
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**:

O God, most merciful and gracious,
of whose bounty we have all received,
accept this offering of your people.

**Remember in your love those who have brought it
and those for whom it is given,
and so follow it with your blessing
that it may promote peace and goodwill
among all peoples,
and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Presbyterian, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 332 "Spirit of Faith, Come Down"

*Closing Prayer: 665 "Go Now in Peace" (*Repeat*)

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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