

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 23 July 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

Greeting: Search us, O God, and know our hearts!
Try us and know our thoughts.
In every place you are there, O God.
Lead us in your everlasting ways. (Psalm 139)

*Praise Choruses: 2236 "Gather Us In"
2190 "Bring Forth the Kingdom"

* Opening Prayer: 366 "For Guidance"

*Opening Hymn: 127 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 388 (*Verse 1 only*) "O Come and Dwell in Me"

First Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalter: (*Insert, alternate leader and people*) Psalm 139:1-12,23-24

Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

*Hymn of Preparation: 2050 "Mothering God,
You Gave Me Birth"

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*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon: "Seriously."

Affirmation of Faith: 885 "A Modern 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 and Petition (*Tune 378*)^:
**O God of Bethel, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who through this earthly pilgrimage
Has all thine Israel led.**

**To thee as to our Covenant-God
Our whole selves we'll resign;
And this not as a tithe alone,
For all we have is thine.**

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

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SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 533 "We Shall Overcome"

*Closing Prayer: 497 "Send Me, Lord"

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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