

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 30 July 2023

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements_

*Greeting***: Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

Let us call upon God's holy Name!

Sing praises to God;

Tell of all God's wonderful works. (*Psalm 105*)

Praise Choruses: 3096 "Gentle Shepherd"

3097 "Depth of Mercy"

* Prayer of Confession^:

Our lives are cluttered, Lord Jesus,

by too many things

and too much to do.

**We are driven by the need to succeed
and distracted by our service.**

We have often lost our way.

Forgive us.

Let us, like Mary,

find the one thing that is needed

and sit at your feet. Amen. (*Marlene Kropf*)

*Opening Hymn: 2001 "We Sing to You, O God"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 2160 (*Verse 1 only*) "Into My Heart"

First Lesson: Genesis 29:15-28

Psalter: (*Insert, alternate leader and people*) Psalm 105:1-11,45b

Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

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*Hymn of Preparation: 419 "I Am Thine, O Lord"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sermon: "*I wish I understood...*"

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

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Canticle of Prayer 406

*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^:

**Almighty God, you gave us your commandments,
and asked us to live according to your holy will.**

**As part of your design for honorable living,
we participate in this simple act of giving.**

We dedicate ourselves to living lives

of honesty and peace. Amen. (*David Bell*)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 399 "Take My Life, and Let it Be"

(3)

*Closing Prayer[^]:

May the God who made heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to disturb and heal us,
bless you with power to go forth
and proclaim the gospel.

The grace of God be with you all, now and always.

Amen. (*Janet Morley*)

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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