

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 9 July 2023**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

\*Greeting\*\*:  
Good and upright is the Lord;  
**Instructing sinners in the way.**  
God leads the humble in what is right.  
**And shows the humble the way.** *(Psalm 25)*

\*Praise Choruses: Eight hymns in eight minutes

\* Prayer of Confession: 646 "Canticle of Love" *(Response 1)*

\*Opening Hymn: 643 "When Love Is Found"

**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,  
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.)*

**(2)**

First Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalter: *(Insert, alternate leader and people)* Psalm 45:10-17

Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

\*Hymn of Preparation: 2142 "Blessed Quietness"

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon: *"For you"*

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.**

**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**

(3)

**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: 2137 (*Tune 622*) "Would I Have Answered  
When You Called"

\*Closing Prayer: 495 "The Sufficiency of God"

\*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

**Going Forth**

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\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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