

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 17 September 2023**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

\*Greeting\*\*:  
The Lord is our strength and our song.  
**The Lord is our salvation.**  
O God, you lead the people you have redeemed.  
**The Lord will reign for ever and ever!**  
*(Exodus 15)*

\*Praise Choruses: 2071 "Jesus, Name Above All Names"  
2234 "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

\*Opening Prayer^:  
Let us unite in prayer that Christ may dwell in our hearts.  
**O Christ, our only Savior,**  
**so come to dwell in us that we may go forth**  
**with the light of your hope in our eyes,**  
**and with your faith and love in our hearts. Amen.**  
*(England, 20th Cent., Alt.)*

\*Opening Hymn: 463 "Lord, Speak to Me"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: "Canticle of Christ's Obedience"  
UMH 167(*Response 2*)

First Lesson: Exodus 14:19-31

Psalter: UMH 135 "Canticle of Moses and Miriam"

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

\*Hymn of Preparation: UMH 170 "O, How I Love Jesus"

(2)

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 885 UMH "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: 466 UMH "An Invitation to Christ".

Offering/Offertory

\*Gloria Patri: 70 UMH "Glory Be to the Father"

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition\*\*:  
Almighty, powerful, caring and merciful God,  
you have rescued your people in the past  
and continue to do so today.  
**So we, who have been saved time and again,**  
**sing our praise to you.**  
**Increase our vision, so we may see**  
**that not all are called to love and serve you**  
**in the same way.**  
**Visit the lonely, give peace to those who are in trouble,**  
**and comfort those who mourn.**  
**Hear us now as we offer our petitions,**  
**our gifts, and ourselves**  
**through the One who teaches us true forgiveness,**  
**Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

\*The Lord's Prayer: 895 UMH

(3)

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 670 UMH "Go Forth for God"

\*Closing Prayer: 669 UMH "The Apostolic Blessing"

\*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*