

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 24 September 2023**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

\*Greeting\*: We have heard the stories of our God  
**From those who have gone before.**  
We will not hide them from our children.  
**But tell them to the coming generation.**  
We will tell the glorious deeds of the Lord,  
**And the wonders God has wrought. (Psalm 78)**

\*Praise Choruses: 2166 "Christ Beside Me"  
2126 "All Who Hunger"

\*Opening Prayer^:  
God our Mother and Father, we come to you as children.  
**Be with us as we learn to see one another with new eyes,  
hear one another with new hearts,  
and treat one another in a new way. Amen.**  
*(Corry Meela Community, Ireland, 20th Cent.)*

\*Opening Hymn: 731 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15

Psalter: *(Insert, alternate leader and people)*

(2)

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

\*Hymn of Preparation: *(Tune 175) (See P. 4)*  
"Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care"

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon: "Good preaching"

Affirmation of Faith: 881 "The Apostles' Creed,  
Traditional Version"

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 Dedication^:  
Let us pray.  
**O God, this isn't very much.  
It's only a small part of what we earn and spend.  
But receive it as a symbol.  
Let it be a sign between you and us  
that we want to find and create the life and love  
that you offer.  
We are ready to be your people. Amen.**

(3)

\*The Lord's Prayer: 895

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 430 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

\*Closing Prayer^^: Dear God, we pray to you  
**For people in all the world.  
For other nations.  
For other races.  
For people who think differently  
And live differently.  
Help us to respect, understand,  
And love each other.  
Let there be no hate among nations.  
Forgive all injustice.  
Let wars end.  
Let your message be  
Proclaimed every.  
Give us peace.  
Amen.**

*(Hope for Tomorrow)*

Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

**\*Going Forth**

\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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^^A Salesian Missions publication@49727

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Hymn of Preparation: "Lord, It Belongs Not  
To my Care" (*Tune 175*)

**Lord, it belongs not to my care  
Whether I die or live;  
To love and serve Thee is my share,  
And this Thy grace must give.**

**If life be long, I will be glad  
That I may long obey;  
If short, yet why should I be sad  
To soar to endless day?**

**Christ leads me through no darker rooms  
Than He went through before;  
He that into God's kingdom comes  
Must enter by this door.**

**Come, Lord, when grace has made me meet  
thy blessed face to see;  
For, if Thy work on earth be sweet,  
What will Thy glory be!**

**My knowledge of that life is small.  
The eye of faith is dim;  
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all,  
And I shall be with Him.**

*(Richard Baxter, 17<sup>th</sup> cent., English)*