

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**8:30 a.m. Sunday 3 September 2023**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Labor Day Sunday**

**ENTRANCE**

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

Lighting of candles and prelude

Opening Prayer: 402 *(Verse 1 only)* "Lord, I Want to Be  
a Christian"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for illumination: 597 "For the Spirit of Truth"

First lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

Psalter: *(Insert: Alternate leader and people)* Psalm 105:1-6,  
23-26,45c

Second lesson: Romans 12:9-21

Song: 338 "Where He Leads Me"

Gospel lesson: Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon

Joys, concerns, prayers

Prayer for All Workers\*:

**O Lord, you have bound us together  
in this bundle of life;  
give us grace to understand how our lives depend  
upon the courage, the industry, the honesty  
and integrity of our fellows;  
that we may be mindful of their needs,  
grateful for their faithfulness,  
and faithful in our responsibilities to them;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Reinhold Niebuhr (With One Voice))*

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**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)**

**All are welcome**

**SENDING FORTH**

Song: 431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Blessing: 412 "Prayer of John Chrysostom"

Postlude and extinguishing of candles

*\*The Wideness of God's Mercy, Vol 2, Jeffery W. Rowthorn, ed,  
Seabury Press, 1985*