

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**10:30 a.m. Sunday 1 September 2024**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Labor Day Sunday\*\*^**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

\*Greeting\*\*:  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
**And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits.  
**The Lord forgives all our iniquity,  
and heals all our diseases.**

The Lord redeems our lives from the pit,  
and crown us with steadfast love and mercy.  
**God satisfies us with good as long as we live  
so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

\*Opening Prayer: 456 "For Courage to Do Justice"

\*Opening Hymn: 592 *(Tune 395)* "When the Church of Jesus"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: 393 "Spirit of the Living God"

First lesson: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalter: *(Insert, alternate leader and people)* Psalm 45:1-2,6-9

Second Lesson: James 1: 17-27

\*Hymn of Preparation: 643 "When Love Is Found"

**(2)**

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 886 "The World Methodist  
Social Affirmation"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 12ff)**  
**(All are welcome)**

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 444 "O Young and Fearless Prophet "

\*Closing Prayer\*\*:  
O God, you have bound us together in this life.  
Give us grace to understand how our lives depend  
on the courage, the industry, the honesty,  
and the integrity of all who labor.  
May we be mindful of their needs,  
grateful for their faithfulness,  
and faithful in our responsibilities to them;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*(Reinhold Niebuhr, U.S.A., 20th cent., alt)*

**\*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going Forth**

**\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing**  
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**^Observed the first Monday in September, this day of rest and relaxation honoring all who work originated in 1882 in New York City with a parade organized by a machinist and a carpenter. Churches sometimes observe the previous day as Labor Day Sunday.**