

12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 15th, 2021; 9:15 AM

Gathering Music & Announcements

Greeting

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Blessed be God, our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen!

Opening Hymn

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

UMH 731

Opening Prayer (Collect of Purity, Episcopal)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Music

Flute Concerto in D Major, Op.283: II. Lento e Mesto

Lauren Zwonik

Jeff Beyers, Accompanist

Silent Prayers of Confession, Help, and Deliverance

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 103: 8)

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in *steadfast love*.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

UMH 361

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 2: 10-25

Sermon

“June, July, & August: Summer Gods; Some are NOT!” Rev. Byron E. Brought

Isaiah's Satire against Idols (Isaiah 44:9-20)

⁹All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless.
Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own embarrassment.
¹⁰Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit nothing?
¹¹People who do that will be put to shame; such craftsmen are only human beings.
Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to shame.
¹²The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers,
He forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength;
He drinks no water and grows faint.
¹³The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker;
He roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses.
He shapes it in human form, human form in all its glory, that it may dwell in a shrine.
¹⁴He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak.

He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow.
¹⁵ It is used as fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol, bows down to it.
¹⁶ Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire."
¹⁷ From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me! You are my god!"
¹⁸ They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand.
¹⁹ No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?"
²⁰ Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him; He cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?"

Special Organ Music

Communion & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* **UMH 126**

Benediction

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to God through your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service, and your witness.

Love as Jesus Loves!

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near!
Thus deriving from our banner light and shade by day,
safe we feed upon the manna which God gives us when we pray.

Blest inhabitants of Zion, washed in our Redeemer's blood;
Jesus, whom our souls rely on, makes us monarchs, priests to God.
Us, by his great love, he raises, rulers over self to reign,
and as priests his solemn praises we for thankful offering bring.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked come to thee for dress; helpless look for thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me; let me hide myself in thee.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
That earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.