



Bethlehem

United Methodist Church

JULY 18, 2021

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING AND PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP "Come and Find the Quiet Center" (TFWS# 2128)

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed;
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the thing that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

OPENING PRAYER

Persistent and loving God, you are forever seeking for your will to be done on Earth. You yearn for all creation to live in harmony. Forgive us for growing weary of the struggle for peace and justice, and for courting despair. Loosen our need to see the full results and to feel hopeful. Sustain us with an abundance of friends and a measure of faith. Give us the willingness to do the loving thing and to be faithful in the small acts of caring.

God of the hidden seed and the promised resurrection, work your surprising and amazing grace in our lives and in our broken world. Amen.

HYMN

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee" (TFWS #2158)

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

CALL TO PRAYER

"Sanctuary" (TFWS #2164)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING for OFFERING, TITHES, AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“America, The Beautiful”

Joel Raney

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:11-22 (CEB)

So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called “uncircumcised” by Jews who are physically circumcised.¹² At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God’s promise. In this world you had no hope and no God.¹³ But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us.¹⁵ He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace.¹⁶ He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

¹⁷ When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near.¹⁸ We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit.¹⁹ So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God’s people, and you belong to God’s household.²⁰ As God’s household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.²¹ The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord.²² Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Open Our Eyes”

Bob Cull

SERMON

“One In Christ”

David Lord

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

“Bind Us Together” (TFWS #2226)

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King; There is only one body, that is why we sing.

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

“On Eagle’s Wings” (UMH #143)

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**