



# Bethlehem

## United Methodist Church

JULY 31, 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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### GATHERING AND PRAISE

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#### CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*“There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place” (W&S 3148)*

**There’s a spirit of love in this place, there’s a spirit of love in this place.**

**You can’t see it, but it’s there just as precious as the air.**

**There’s a spirit of love in this place.**

**O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.**

**O alleluia, sing alleluia! There’s a spirit of love in this place.**

**There’s the presence of peace in this room, there’s the presence of peace in this room.**

**In God’s tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds.**

**There’s the presence of peace in this room.**

**O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.**

**O alleluia, sing alleluia! There’s a spirit of love in this place.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

God, move in us today. Help us to be open to your transforming love. Open our hearts to be present in this time of worship, that we may experience you and praise you fully. Help us to let go of fears and judgments and ideas that hold us captive from freely experiencing your love through all of your creation. Transform our hearts through your word to receive and live your love in radical ways. Through Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### OPENING HYMN

*“Jesu, Jesu” (UMH #432)*

**Kneel at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,**

**Master who acts as a slave to them.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,  
neighbors are near and far away.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**These are the one we should serve, these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,  
this is the way we should live with you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

#### MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

**CALL TO PRAYER**

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord ” (UMH #382 - verse 1)

**Have Thine own way Lord have Thine own way**

**Thou art the Potter I am the clay**

**Mold me and make me after Thy will**

**While I am waiting yielded and still**

**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**

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is ”

Don Phillips

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**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

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**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)

<sup>25</sup> A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?” <sup>27</sup> He responded, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.” <sup>29</sup> But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. <sup>31</sup> Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. <sup>32</sup> Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. <sup>33</sup> A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’

<sup>36</sup> What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?” <sup>37</sup> Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

**SERMON**

“Loving in the Hard Places”

Rev. Susan Hughes

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**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

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**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

Jack Schrader

HYMN

“Whatever You Do” (W&S #3128)

Whatever you do to the least ones of these,

I tell you in truth that you do unto me!

Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we lean anew  
that when we serve others, we also serve you.

When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end,  
when those long forgotten cry out for a friend,  
when thirsty ones whisper, “O Lord, where are you?”  
We hear, in their longing, that you’re calling, too.

In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise:  
We see you in people whom others despise.

At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer  
that when we visit the sick, you are there.

When we reach to others in flood stricken lands  
and offer our hearts there, and offer our hands,  
we notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace;  
we see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.

Lord, when did we see you? Your teaching is clear  
That when we serve others, we’re service you here.  
And when your church heed you and helps those in pain,  
Then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

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SENDING FORTH

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BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

“As We Go” (W&S #3183)

As we go, may your Spirit go before us. As we go, may we follow where you lead.  
May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,  
and be a light unto the world as we go.