



# Bethlehem

## United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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### GATHERING AND PRAISE

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*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (UMH #89)*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flower before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**Thou are giving and forgiving, every blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Awesome and amazing God, you go to the depths of love and the heights of caring for us. You sing to us in the beauty of each dawn. You walk with us each day. You bless us each evening, and you hide us under the shadow of your wings each night. Awesome and amazing God, we offer our praise to you and tell of your love to all creation. Amen.

*For the Beauty of the Earth (UMH #92)*

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;  
Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,  
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

#### MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

##### CALL TO PRAYER

*There's Something About That Name (UMH #171)*

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There's just something about that name!**

**Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain.**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim:**

**Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that name!**

#### 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

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Jerry Aultman

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**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

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SCRIPTURE

*Romans 14:1-12 (CEB)*

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. Because it is written,

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me,  
and every tongue will give praise to God.*

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Jack Shraeder

SERMON

*"We Belong to God "*

Rev. David Lord

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**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

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*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love (TFWS #2223)*

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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SENDING FORTH

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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 to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.