



# Bethlehem

## United Methodist Church

AUGUST 7, 2022

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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### GATHERING AND PRAISE

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#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*“Lord, Be Glorified” (TFWS #2150)*

**In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.**

**In your church Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.**

**In your world Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.**

#### OPENING PRAYER: THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

#### OPENING HYMN

*“I Come With Joy” (UMH #617)*

**I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder  
to recall his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in  
Christ’s communion bread, in Christ’s communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us  
makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**

**And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.**

#### MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

#### HYMN

*“Seek Ye First” (UMH #405 - verse 1)*

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

#### MORNING PRAYER

#### THANKSGIVING for OFFERING, TITHES, AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Here I am To Worship”

Douglas Wagner

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**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

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SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:31-33 (CEB)

**31** He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. **32** It’s the smallest of all seeds. But when it’s grown, it’s the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.” **33** He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough.”

SERMON

“For The Sake of the Kingdom”

Rev. Scott Davis

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**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

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SPECIAL MUSIC

“Since Jesus Came Into My Heart” (TFWS #2140)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION, CONFESSON, AND PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love towards us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters. You

formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him and declared him your beloved Son. With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations of sin. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in promise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, showing forth the fruit of the Spirit until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

##### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

##### HYMN

“Bring Forth the Kingdom” (TFWS #2190)

You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people; Life in the Kingdom of God.

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace; bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace; bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace; bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God! Love our journey and love our homeland; Love is the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace; bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

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#### SENDING FORTH

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##### BENEDICTION

##### RESPONSE

“Song of Hope” (TFWS #2186)

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace; singing,  
share our joy with all; working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.