

# Front Street United Methodist Church

July 12, 2020 || 6th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prelude

I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Margaret Dalton, soprano

*I will sing of thy great mercies, O Lord, of thy mercies, O Lord, my Savior, and of thy faithfulness evermore. —Psalm 89:1*

## Gathering

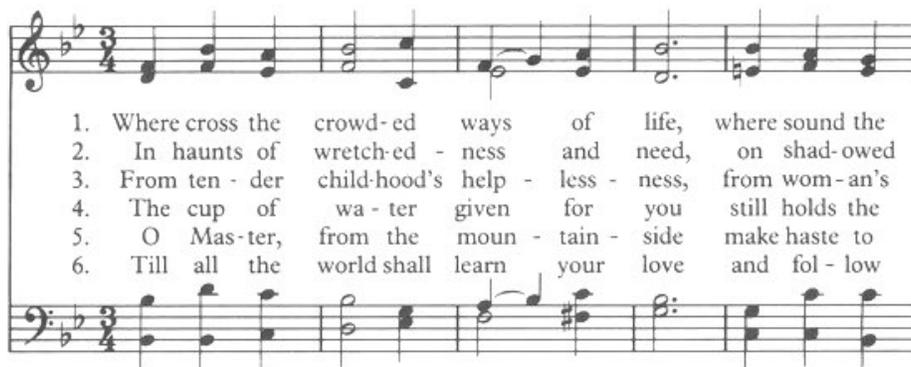
Accept our offering of praise, O Lord.

And teach us your Ways.

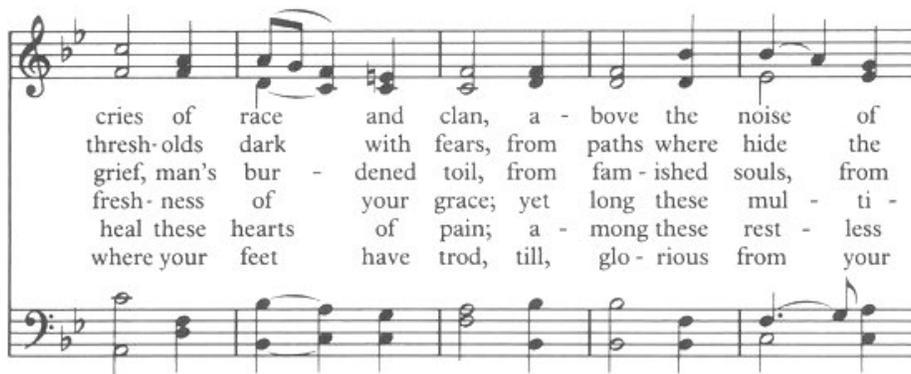
## Hymn

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

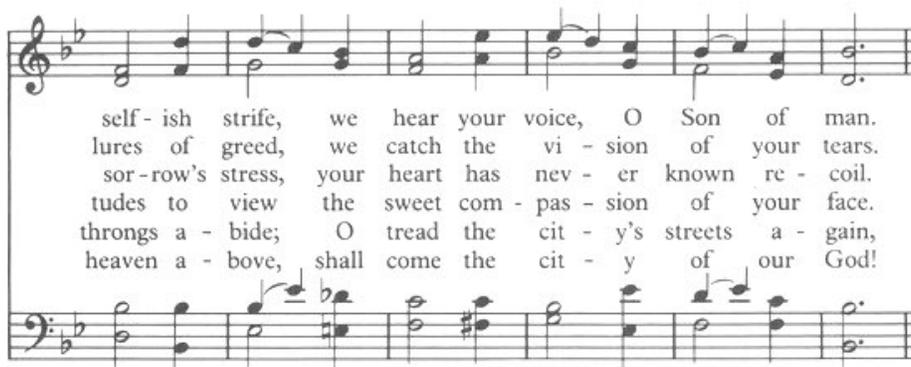
UMH 427



1. Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the  
2. In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and need, on shad-owed  
3. From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from wom - an's  
4. The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the  
5. O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain - side make haste to  
6. Till all the world shall learn your love and fol - low



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
grief, man's bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
fresh-ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -  
heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less  
where your feet have trod, till, glo - rious from your



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of man.  
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
tudes to view the sweet com - pas - sion of your face.  
throughs a - bid; O tread the cit - y's streets a - gain,  
heaven a - bove, shall come the cit - y of our God!

## The Word, *read & proclaimed*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

"Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

...

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

## Sermon

"What Kind of Dirt Are You?"

Rev. Ross Carter

*"The Parable of the Sower," Jesus Mafa, oil on canvas, 1973, Cameroon.*



## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Prayers of the People

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.

Giving

"Great Are You Lord"

All Sons & Daughters

**3** WAYS TO GIVE

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Burlington, NC 27216

## Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Sending Forth

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (*Romans 15:13*)  
**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.**

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## Copyright Acknowledgements

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## Worship Notes

### Prelude

The aria "I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies" is from the second part of Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *St. Paul*, Op. 36. Although originally written in German for the premier at the Lower Rhenish Music Festival in Düsseldorf in 1836, the libretto was translated into English by Mendelssohn's friend, Karl Klingermann (1798-1862), for a performance in Liverpool later the same year. Following the famous chorus "How Lovely are the Messengers," the text of this aria deals with the mission of Paul and Barnabas following Paul's conversion and baptism. The disciples, being filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, departed to preach the word of God with joyfulness (Acts 13:4-5).

### Hymn

Frank Mason North (1850-1935) wrote this hymn about the Christian's responsibility to the city. The city was New York in 1905. He was influenced by Matthew 22:9: "Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find." The text enumerates the many needs of people in an urban setting and tells us that Jesus never recoiled from people in desperate need but showed compassion. The last two stanzas are one thought: the city needs the presence of Jesus until all people on earth learn Christ's ways of service and the city of God comes upon earth. The tune GERMANY is attributed to William Gardiner (1770-1853), who pieced it together using several memorable melodic fragments from Mozart, Beethoven, and others.

### Artwork

The JESUS MAFA collection depicts Gospel readings from the Revised Common Lectionary through the interpretation of indigenous Christian communities in the northern region of Mafa in Cameroon, Africa. Each passage was dramatically adapted by the members of these local communities and photographed by a collective of French artists. These photographs were then transcribed into paintings, which comprise this remarkable collection of these treasured biblical scenes, imagined anew through the movements and centering of Black bodies.

## Offertory

All Sons & Daughters as a worship music duo from Franklin, Tennessee. Throughout their nine-year music career (2009-2018) Leslie Jordan and David Leonard gave the church some of its brightest and most theologically sound worship music. "Great Are You Lord," from their 2014 self-titled album, reflects on all things good and living as having their origin in God. All life is grace, the song reminds us, and in ordinary things like breath, creatures, light, and the necessity of hope, we may expect to discover God's manifest presence. As the song suggests, and as recipients of God's goodness, our only response to taking in such magnificent grace is to exhale our heartfelt praise.