

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10 a.m.

July 16, 2023

** indicates "stand if you are able." UMH is the blue hymnal. TFWS is the small black book.*

PRELUDE Patricia Hansen
INTROIT "Welcome" W&S #3152
CUMC Adult Choir

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: **Praise the Lord!**

*HYMN "God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us" UMH #100

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

One: Come in from busy summertime days to this place of worship.

All: **We come to connect with God's word.**

One: Come in from the stress of everyday life into the light of knowledge.

All: **We come as seekers of truth.**

One: Come into worship with offerings of praise.

All: **We come to hear the word and respond!**

All: **Loving God, gather us into this moment of reverence, celebration, and growth. As your sons and daughters we long for renewed faith and meaning in our lives. Christ's Parable of the Sower lights our path, with its images of rocky ground, tangled thorns, and green shoots. May the light of your word illuminate our way and become the joy of our hearts! Amen.**

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES "Children's Message" Lori Benzoni

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let all who wish to know the ways of life and death listen for the word of God.

Truly the presence of the Lord is in this place.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 25:19-34

THE PSALM READING Psalm 119:105-112

THE EPISTLE READING Romans 8:1-11

THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Kingdom of God" Rev. Sue H. Yun

INVITATION

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 sins before God and one another. *(From UMH page 7)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful One, we often feel the burden of living, as though we've been tossed on rocky soil and left to struggle on our own. Other days, we throw ourselves too quickly onto wrong paths. We are tested by hungry birds; we are choked by thorns, and wither in the beating sun. We are here to choose different paths, confirm new oaths, admit our afflictions, and ask you to give us life again. Perfect One, show us your ways and bless us with your sacraments, that we may not stray from your road. Help us hear your word, understand it, and bear your fruit for the world.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Be assured that it's never too late! The God of Love, and Christ the storyteller, remind us to listen, understand, and act. Prepare your hearts as garden beds for God's seeds of joy and hope. Receive God's grace today and every day.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (in unison)

Let us be generous in our giving, that others may see in us the transforming power of God. Let us be lavish in our gifts, that others may draw life from the bounty of God's blessings.

WEEKLY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Thy Word is a Lamp" UMH #601

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Just as your word is a light to our path, Holy One, may our offering of praise be a light to the world. In this season of fruitful gardens, help us share bountiful harvests of our own making. Whether our offering be of our time, wealth, or prayer, receive and multiply our gifts through the glory of your love. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, we pray for Ukraine today. We pray for people suffering from war. Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression. Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference. Stop the war o, God. Amen.

*HYMN *“Seek ye First”* UMH #405

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

May your path be gentle, your soil rich, and your weeds small. As you go forth into the world, look for gardens to water, feed, and cultivate. Nurture the love of Christ in others, as well as in yourselves.

All: Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us share God’s love and peace with one another.

POSTLUDE Patricia Hansen

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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July 16, 2023

Rev. Sue H. Yun
Pastor

Jeong-Hwa Park
Minister of Music

Mrs. Stacey Longenberger
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