

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10 a.m.

July 23, 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 "O How I Love Jesus" UMH #170

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is none other than the house of God. This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

All: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

One: God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.

All: Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. It is so high we cannot attain it.

One: Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

All: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

OPENING PRAYER

Caretaker of our souls, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. You discern our thoughts from afar. If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead us, and your might shall hold us fast. How can we bear such wonder? How can we fathom such awe and splendor? Breathe your Spirit upon us, and claim us as children of light, that we might be found worthy of your love and care. Amen.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES "Children's Message" Virginia Lorenzi

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 28:10-19a

THE PSALM READING Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

THE EPISTLE READING Romans 8:12-25

THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Receive" 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

Holy Mystery, we yearn to grow closer to you this day. When our spirits grow unsettled and groan in travail like our warming planet, meet us in our need. When we seek isolation from the rancor of our time, remind us how the wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. When we feel captive to the pressures of this world, remind us that we need not succumb to our fears, for you have given us a spirit of adoption as children of God. Pursue us and hold us near, Gentle One, that we may truly be set free. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The one who hems us in, behind and before, loves us with a fierce tenderness. The one who pursues us to the farthest limit of the sea, fills us with peace and grace beyond measure.

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 "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" TFWS #2146
Debbie Holland & Pat Hansen

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

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

God of dreams and visions, we offer you our gifts this day in gratitude and praise for your angels who come to bring us your blessings. May this offering be a sign of our commitment to be a blessing to all peoples of the earth. 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 *“What Wondrous Love Is This”* UMH #292

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Keep your eyes on the gate of heaven.

All: We will see angels climbing Jacob’s ladder, as they bring our prayers to God.

One: Fix your gaze on the entry to the Holy One.

All: We will see angels climbing Jacob’s ladder, as they bring our hopes before the Lord.

One: Wherever you are on life’s journey, take time to mark sacred encounters with joy.

All: We will see the salvation of our God.

One: Go as children of light, children of the living God.

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

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Rev. Sue H. Yun
Pastor

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