

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10 a.m.

September 3, 2023

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

PRELUDE "Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide" Robert J. Hughes/arr. Marcus Whit

A SPECIAL MESSAGE "See You At Church"
A United Methodist Communications Video

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 "Holy Ground" TFWS #2272

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord.

All: **Call on God's holy name.**

One: Sing praises to the Lord.

All: **Tell of God's wondrous deeds.**

One: Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power.

All: **Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.**

One: Give thanks to the Lord.

All: **Call on God's holy name.**

OPENING PRAYER

Great I Am, you come to us in unexpected ways. Excite our curiosity, that we might turn aside and realize we are standing on holy ground. Appear to us in fire and wonder, that we might see worlds beyond the reaches of our imaginations. Reveal the glory of your kingdom – where love is genuine, where evil is forsaken, where mutual affection abides, and hospitality is shown to strangers, where all are made one. 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 Exodus 3:1-15

THE PSALM READING Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:21-28

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "God's Play Book" Tim Gill

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

Loving God, Holy Shepherd, we long for a higher calling. When we would rather tend to our flocks in peace than confront the powers of this age, open our hearts to your guidance and direction. When we would rather keep silent than face the suffering of others, open our mouths to speak the truth. Turn us from human considerations and set our minds on your kingdom, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The great I Am invites us to turn aside and boldly embrace paths that lead to life. Turn and receive blessing upon blessing.

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

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

God of power and might: We, like Peter, struggle with the image of a savior sent to suffer and die. We may seem to be doing great in following Christ, but we too stumble at this point. Perhaps we stumble because we know that what follows is Christ's call to us to deny ourselves and pick up a cross of our own in order to follow. As we bring gifts for the work of building your kingdom, help us to learn to deny, carry, and follow. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Jesus, Name Above All Names" with "O, How I Love Jesus"
Performed by Jeong-Hwa Park, written by Naida Hearn, arranged by Mark Hayes

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

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

God of new beginnings, receive the gifts of our hands, that hospitality might be extended to those in need. Bless today's offering that the hungry may be fed and the thirsty may be satisfied. May these gifts seal our commitment to do what is just and honorable in your sight. 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 *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"* TFWS #2241

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Live peaceably with others. Hold fast to what is good. Honor what is just and show mutual affection for all. Go with the blessings of the almighty.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

POSTLUDE *"Choral Song"* Samuel Wesley/arr. Dorothy Wells

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

100 Park Boulevard, Massapequa, New York 11758 • (516) 541-7008

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Rev. Sue Hyosuk Yun Jeong-Hwa Park Mrs. Stacey Longenberger
Pastor Minister of Music Secretary