

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 26, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *PRAISE BE TO THEE, LORD JESUS CHRIST - Buttstedt*

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving God, we praise you for the opportunity to gather in worship. Open our hearts as we bring ourselves before you in humble desire to follow your ways and know your wisdom. Open our eyes and help us see how our lives impact others and this created world. Open our ears and help us to hear the voices of those who have been silenced for too long. Open our minds and help us to understand our impact on the world and our more rightful place in it. Show us your glory, and guide our thoughts and reflections as we worship, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: As we gather to worship, we thank you God.

Unison: **We thank you for the many blessings of our lives.**

Pastor: We raise our voices in praise, remembering your wonderful works in our lives.

Unison: **In line with our ancestors in faith, with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, we praise you for the opportunities we have known.**

Pastor: For the work we are able to get; for the doors that are opened to us;

Unison: **for the privileges in life.**

People: For all the ways you have been our provider and defender, we praise you.

Unison: **Be with us as we worship, and hear our voices, lifted in praise. Hear us, see us, be with us, and bless us as we worship and in our lives. Amen.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: Holy Creator, we have not always been aware of our privilege and power. We are a people of inequity and injustice.

Unison: **We have not always understood the impact of silencing on others.**

Pastor: We are a people who have known and taken for granted ways and laws that disempower and dismiss.

Unison: We have not always been careful of those who have less opportunity in our world.

Pastor: We are a people with a voice, yet we have not always spoken the truth.

Unison: Gracious Creator, we are also aware that we have hurt our own lives and spirits by the actions and inactions we have justified through our privilege.

Pastor: We have not understood the value of the diversity with which we have been created.

Unison: Forgive us and teach us to notice the invisible, to value the commodified, and to hear the voices of the silenced.

Pastor: Forgive us and teach us to move out of the way and make room in our lives for the “other.”

Unison: Show us how to truly be your people, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Genesis 29:15 – 28

New Testament: Matthew 13:31 – 33, 44 – 52

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON: *The Power of Silence*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD’S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe in God the Creator,

who created and is creating everything:

**the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.**

We believe in God the Christ,

who saved and is saving everything:

**the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who guided and is guiding everything:

**the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.**

**We believe that this one God in three persons,
is present among us,**

working directly in our lives

and the lives of all who are born into this world,

striving to bring us back into harmony

with all creation and with God:

**forgiving, healing, touching everyone,
never rejecting any who willingly receive
this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Loving God, help us to hear the voices of others in our world; help us to notice and care.

Unison: **Holy Creator, give us the strength to speak up and tell our stories; show us the places in this world where our realities can be held as true and holy and valuable.**

Pastor: Gracious Provider, we thank you that you have given us the diversity of experience from which to learn and grow. We thank you, Beloved Savior, for walking this journey with us and giving us companions in love and justice. Show us how to be a people united and in true communion with each other.

Unison: **For all who feel silenced, we lift our voices in compassion; for all who feel treated like property, we pray your dignity and renewal; for all who have suffered the indignities of patriarchy and the oppressions of power-mongering, we pray for healing and wholeness. May we be one. May we be true in our pursuits of your ways.**

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: **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 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.**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *WORD OF GOD SPEAK* - MercyMe

Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: **We dedicate this offering to all who have been used, silenced, unseen, and forgotten. Bless it, we pray, with the yeast to make spirits rise. Transform it into the bread of life for the hungry of this world. Make it shine like the jewels of glory discovered by those who need your strength the most. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *GUIDE ME O MY GREAT REDEEMER*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTES SOHN* -Walther

*Special thanks to **Darin Jellison** for special music, and to **Autumn Kandt** for editing the service. Blessings to all!*