**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Jim Hornby

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Genesis 28, Psalm 139)

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

**P: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

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

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

L: Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God’s glory.

**P: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Genesis 28, Psalm 139)

**Caretaker of our souls, you search us and know us; you are acquainted with all of our ways. Your Spirit hems us in, behind and before. 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 you 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.**

**\***OPENING HYMN***This is the Day***UMH #657

CHILDREN’S TIME Roxie Hostrawser

TESTIMONY Suzie and Ella Goldsmith

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 139, Romans 8, Matthew 13)

**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 (2 Chronicles 20:9)

If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment or pestilence, or famine, and we will stand before this house, and cry to you in our distress, and you will hear and save.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In 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 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Keep your eye on the sparrow! Keep your focus on God’s unfolding realm on earth. Keep your heart open allowing it to spill all over everyone you meet. If you have a financial offering, place it on the plate but more importantly, place your hand over it and silently commit to God to use your gifts, talents, and heart for furthering the unfolding realm of God on earth.

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER (Genesis 28) *(Together)*

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 the peoples of the earth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE 1Thessalonians 5:9-11

 **“For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who dies for us, so that whether we are awake or sleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other, as indeed you are doing”**

 **“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.”** 1Thessalonians 5:16-17

\*HYMN OF PRAISE ***Here I am, Lord*** UMH #593

SERMON Paula Voskuil

\*CLOSING HYMN ***Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing***  UMH #671

**\***BENEDICTION (Genesis 28, Romans 8) *(Together)*

L: Keep your eyes on the gate of heaven.

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

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

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

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

**P: We will see the salvation of our God.**

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

POSTLUDE Kathy Peterson

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation,

 and the World.

**WWIS:** Todays broadcast is offered by Bob Uhrig, in honor of his late wife, Jeannine Uhrig’s

 Birthday.

**VBS:** Saturday, Aug. 12, and Sunday, Aug. 13. Please contact Suzie Goldsmith.

**BRF SUMMERFEST PICNIC:** Sunday, Aug. 13th from 10:30 am-1:00 pm at church

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE FARM:** A few of the Youth go to this event to help set up the camp,

 on Sat. July 29, Sullivan, WI. If you are interested, please contact the Pastor.

**YOUTH:** Youth Family Picnic, Wednesday, August 9, at 5-8 pm at Lunda Park

**HOLY LAND TRIP:** January 11-20, 2024,10-Day Gold Select Journey in Israel, Palestine

 with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung & Rev. Scott Carlson, see Pastor for more information.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift-giving or personal use, consider

 Scrip cards**.** Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

**PASTOR:** Pray for the pastor and his family for safe travel and well-being.

**FELLOWSHIP:** Joe & Maria Williams

**USHER/GREETERS**: Don and Charlene Galston

**MEETINGS in August:**

Mon., Aug. 7 Trustees 5:00 pm

Tue., Aug. 8 Worship 5:30 pm

 Ad Council 6:30 pm

Mon., Aug. 21 Finance 5:30 pm

**Bible Verse of the week: Philippians 2:9-11** (Revised Standard Version)

“*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name*

*which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,*

*in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

**Bible Trivia of the Week:**

 What city was Paul's hometown?

A. Damascus B. Troas

 C. Tarsus D. Jerusalem *See: Acts 21:39*

**Black River Falls**

**United Methodist Church**



**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

 PIANIST Matthew Schluntz

 MUSIC DIRECTOR Amanda Lang

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