**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Katrina McGillivray

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 105, Romans 8)

L: Sing God’s praise.

**P: Give thanks to the Lord above.**

L: Seek the Lord and trust God’s strength.

**P: Proclaim God’s wonderful works.**

L: Live in the Spirit of love and grace.

**P: Give thanks for Christ’s marvelous love.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Romans 8, Matthew 13)

**Spirit of God, you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. When all seems lost, you heal our hearts and give us strength to carry on. Set our hearts and minds on you, Great Spirit, that we may know your abiding presence and your never-failing love. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN ***Rejoice, The Lord Is King***UMH #715

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 105, Romans 8, Matthew 13)

**Loving God, as we seek you, search our hearts and ease our troubled spirits. Where we are frightened and unsure of your love, restore us with the assurance of your grace. Even when we give up too easily, we long for the courage to reach for new beginnings. We yearn to know deep in our bones that nothing in heaven or on earth can separate us from your great love. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Romans 8)

Remember, beloved children of God, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

can separate us from the love of God. Give thanks to God for this marvelous gift.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Shon

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 (Psalm 105)

Let us share our gifts to make God’s deeds known among the people. May our gifts and offerings glorify God and tell of Christ’s wonderful works.

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE

 Revelation 2:8-11

**8“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:**

**These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give your life as your victor’s crown.**

**11Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE ***Christ Loves the Church*** UMH #590

SERMON ***A Call to Suffering*** Rev. Shon

\*CLOSING HYMN  ***Jesus Is All the World to Me***  UMH #469

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE Matt Schluntz

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

 and the World.

**MISSION OUTREACH:** is looking to submit a grant proposal to the WI United Methodist

 Foundation. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Marcia Hagen or come to our

 meeting on August 8 at 7:30pm, after the Ad Council meeting.

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

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

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

**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

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

**FELLOWSHIP:** Esther Shon

**MEETINGS**

Mon., Aug. 7, Trustees 5:30 pm

Tue., Aug. 8, Worship Comm. 5:30 pm

 Ad Council 6:30 pm

Sun., Aug. 20, Mission Outreach 10:30 am

Mon., Aug. 21, Finance Comm. 5:30 pm

**Bible Verse of the week: James 1:21** (Revised Standard Version)

*“Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”*

**Bible Trivia of the Week:**

 Where is this verse found?

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him:

the just shall live by his faith."

 A. Jude B. Isaiah

 C. Philemon D. Habakkuk *See: Habakkuk 2:4*

**Black River Falls**

**United Methodist Church**

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**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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