**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 27, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Katrina McGillivray

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Matthew 15)

L: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

**P: We look around and wonder where God is.**

L: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

**P: God surrounds us with love and courage.**

L: Come, let us praise God for God’s abiding presence.

**P: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don’t recognize your loving presence. AMEN.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our Savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus’ name. AMEN.**

**\***OPENING HYMN***Cry of My Heart*** TFWS #2165

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**There are far too many times, O Lord, when we have neglected or ignored the needs of others because it just wasn’t convenient for us to help. We backed away with excuses on our lips and indifference in our hearts. Forgive us and set us on the right path of service and compassion in the name of Jesus who modeled faithful living for us. Remind us that we are residents of a global community. Help us to hear the plight of those who have been voiceless. With the gifts that we have and the love of Christ, direct our lives in compassionate service to others. In Jesus’ name, we pray. AMEN.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Genesis 45, Matthew 15)

Through the abundance of God’s mercy and forgiving love, you are empowered to be disciples, to reach out to others, to offer the words and deeds of hope in a struggling world. God’s blessings are poured over you for this service.

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 (Romans 12)

In gratitude for all that you have done for us and given to us, we return a portion of these gifts that they may be used in service to others. Let us receive our morning offering.

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE Revelation 3:7-13

 **7“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:**

**These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.**

**11I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. 13Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE ***Pass It On*** UMH #572

SERMON **How to Stay Strong during Weakness** Rev. Shon

\*CLOSING HYMN   ***Here I Am, Lord*** UMH #593

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE Matt Schluntz

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

 and the World.

**PRAYER WALK:** Mon., Sept.4th at 9 am, will end at Revolution on Main St. for coffee and

 discussion.

**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 September 7 at 6:30 pm.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN:** Need volunteers to help with tree removal in the East Parking

 Lot on September 23, 8am. Contact Paul Hoffman or the church office.

**CONFIRMATION DAY:** will be on Sunday, Sept. 17th at 9 am.

**SMALL GROUP STUDY:** *‘Living as United Methodist Christians”* will begin Sunday,

 Sept. 17th at 10:30 am and will last for 6 weeks. Facilitator: Pastor Inwha

**SMALL GROUP STUDY**: *“Invitation to the Old Testament”* will begin Sunday,

 Sept. 17th at 10:15 am in the Library and will last 8 weeks. Facilitator: Paula Voskuil

**YOUTH GROUP:** First weekly meeting will be held Wed., Sept, 13th, 5:30 pm-7 pm.

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** will begin September 13th, 5 pm-6:00 pm. Signup sheet

 is on the Kitchen Entrance Door. Please volunteer if you can!

**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**: Paula and Alan Voskuil

**FELLOWSHIP:** Imelda Kelly

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mon,  | Aug. 28 | SPRC | 5:30 pm |
| Thur, | Sept. 7  | CYF/Dinner Church Prep.  | 5:30 pm/6:30 pm |
| Sat. | Sept. 9 | UMM | 8:00 am |
| Sun, | Sept. 10,  | Mission Outreach  | 10:30 am |
| Mon, | Sept. 11 | UWF  | 5:00 pm |
|  |  | Trustees | 5:00 pm |
| Tue,  | Sept. 12  | Worship/Ad Council  | 6:30 pm |
| Wed.,  | Sept. 13  | Youth Group  | 5:30 pm-7 pm |

**Bible Verse of the Week:** Psalm 119:160

*“All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.”*

**Bible Trivia this Week:**

 *Which family followed their ancestor's command not to drink wine or build homes?*

 A. Kenites B. Nehelamites C. Recabites D. Termites *See: Jeremiah 35*

**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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