**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Tom Epps

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing and rejoice! The Lord reaches out to you with healing love!
**P: The Lord is our strength and our power!**
L: Dance before the Lord, a dance of joy and hope!
**P: The Lord brings us joy and lifts us up in hope.**
L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.
**P: Let us celebrate the good news God brings to us each day. AMEN.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**O Most Holy Trinity! As many times as I breathe, as many times as my heart beats, as many times as my blood pulsates through my body, so many thousand times do I want to glorify Your mercy. ​I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection, O Lord. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor. - St. Faustina.**

**\***OPENING HYMN***My Life Is in You, Lord***  *TFWS* #2032

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Exodus 14, 15, Romans 14)

**When we hear praises of your past help and triumph, we wonder where you are today, O God. We look at our lives and see hurtful relationships. We look at our nation and see communities suffering under oppression. We look at our world and see injustice and brutality. We need your mighty arm to shatter wrongdoing and corruption. When we are weak, strengthen our faith. When we despair, renew our hope. When we give up, stand us up in your just cause, that we might live for you. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Romans 14)

We stand before God—a God of justice, a God of forgiveness and acceptance. This God raises us up and upholds us in our living. Praise be to God!

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 (Exodus 14, Exodus 15)

Today we hear a familiar story. Hear it with new ears! Let it shock you. Let it move you. Would you dance and play your tambourine? Listen to this amazing story of an impossible getaway made possible by God.

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE Colossians 2:6-7/John 15:5-8/Hebrews 10:24-25

**6So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**

**5“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**

**24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE ***Father, I Adore You*** TFWS #2038

SERMON ***Rooted In Faith*** Rev. Shon

CONFIRMATION Ryan Casper, Maddie Foster

 Macie Goldsmith, Owen Zenz

\*CLOSING HYMN ***Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*** UMH #133

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

 and the World.

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** will begin Sept., 13th at 5 pm. Meal will be served by

 Men’s group. A signup sheet is on the kitchen entrance door, please volunteer if you can!

**CONFIRMATION DAY:** Congratulations on their accomplishment!

**BIBLE STUDY: *“Living as United Methodist Christians****”* will begin Sept., 17th at 10:30 am.

 and will last 6 weeks. Facilitator: Pastor Inwha.

**BIBLE STUDY:** “***Invitation to the Old Testament****.”* The prep meeting will be on Sunday,

 Sept., 17th at 10:15 am in the library. 8-week study. Facilitator: Paula Voskuil.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN:**  Sat., Sept. 23rd at 8 am, will need volunteers for tree removal

 in the East parking lot. Please contact Paul Hoffman or just show up!

**ROOTED:** A new sermon series begins Sept. 10 – Oct. 1. Bring your family, neighbors, and

 friends to Christ.

**CHURCH FAMILY REUNION**: will be on Sunday, October 1st.

**SMALL GROUPS**: If you are interested in leading small groups, please contact the office.

 The first prep meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 5:30 pm.

**GOLF OUTING**: Sunday, Sept. 24th at 1 pm at Skyline. Potluck at 6 pm at church.

**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**: Jean Anderson/Jeff & Barb Hagenbrock

**FELLOWSHIP:** Bonnie Burnham

**MEETINGS**

Tue Sept. 19 Small Group Ministry 5:30 pm

 Finance 6:30 pm

 Tue Sept. 26 SPRC 5:30 pm

 Sat Oct. 7 United Methodist Men 8 am

**Bible Verse of the Week: Philippians 4:4**

 *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”*

**Bible Trivia**

 *According to Israelite law, what did God not want among the Israelite people?*

 *A. poor people B. judges C. servants D. landlords*

 *See: Deuteronomy 15:4*

**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

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