**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday October 1, 2023, 9:00 am

Liturgist: Tom Epps

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Exodus 17, Philippians 2)

L: The God of glory awaits,

**P: welcoming us to worship and praise.**

L: The Christ of humility is here,

**P: welcoming our needs and prayers.**

L: The Spirit of love gathers us in,

**P: binding us together as one.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Philippians 2)

**God of wondrous love and glorious deeds, shower us with your love and quench our thirst for grace. Strengthen us with your Spirit of power and embolden us to live our faith. Humble us with the example of Christ and remind us to regard one another as beloved children of God. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN ***Come, Christians, Join to Sing*** UMH #158

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, your love has never been far from us. Even when we turn our backs on people in need, when we seek our own comfort and neglect opportunities to help others, when we, by our thoughts and actions, betray you, you always are with us. Forgive us for all those acts of cowardice and self-centeredness that have drawn us away from you. Heal our spirits and rebuild our lives. You have placed us in a global community in which illness, oppression, greed, fear and anger abound. You ask us to proclaim your words of hope and love, of healing mercy for all your people. Place us again on the path of peace for all your children. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news, friends! While we wandered in fear, God was with us, offering us hope and courage. God is with you this day, this very minute, lifting you from despair to hope. This is the good news! God is always with us. AMEN.

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)

Faced with a hungry crowd and only five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed the multitude until all were satisfied. Faced with a hungry world, God invites us to offer our gifts, that God’s bounty may be shared with those in need. May Christ see our faith and multiply our gifts, that all might be satisfied.

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE Romans 12:3-13 // Acts 2:42-47

**3**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4**For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5**so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6**We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7**if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8**if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;

if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

**9**Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10**Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11**Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13**Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**42**They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43**Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44**All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45**They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46**Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47**praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

SERMON ***Rooted in Community*** Rev. Shon

\*HYMN OF PRAISE  ***Bind Us Together***  TFWS #2226

HOLY COMMUNION UMH #13-15

L: This is the table of unity and love.

**P: This is the table of mercy and grace.**

L: All are welcome; be of one mind and one heart.

**P: We come with joy, with the mind of love.**

L: Come, all things are ready.

**P: And all are welcome here.**

\*CLOSING HYMN ***Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*** UMH #344

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

 and the World.

**DYNAMITE PRAYER:** starts Oct. 8th for 28 days together.

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** Meal served by the Mission Outreach Team at 5 pm.

**BIBLE STUDY: *“Living as United Methodist Christians****”* Sunday, 10:30 am at Keefe Room.

**BIBLE STUDY:** “***Invitation to the Old Testament****.”*  Thursday, 7 pm.

**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

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**: meets the 4th Thursday of each month, 5:30-6:30 pm at BR

 Memorial Hospital-Oak Room or Zoom. Contact Kathleen Clemons 715-299-0870

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**: to cover the fellowship hall, Saturday Oct. 14th, at 5-10 pm.

 Contact Pat Moe, mrmoe6869@gmail.com/715-896-6394

**USHER/GREETERS**: Sally Laubach and Roxie Hostrawser

**FELLOWSHIP:** Worship Committee

**MEETINGS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Oct. 2 | United Women in Faith | 5:30 PM |
| Saturday | Oct. 7 | United Methodist Men | 8:00 AM |
| Monday | Oct. 9 | Trustees | 5:00 PM |
| Tuesday | Oct. 10 | Worship/Ad Council | 5:30 PM/6:30 PM |

 **Bible Verse of the Week:** (New International Version)

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,*

 *for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

**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

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