



Sunday, July 18, 2021

8th Sunday After Pentecost
9:30 am Worship Service

Mission Statement: Compelled by God's love and our faith in Jesus Christ, Unity Church, a diverse people of faith, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values: We love children. Serve Christ with courage. Embrace diversity. Nurture community. Be an advocate for justice and peace.

Vision Statement: We are called to Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out

(302) 658-5288 UnityChurchELCA@gmail.com
2101 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805
www.unitywilmington.org

We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:

The Rev. Clarence Pettit, Senior Pastor
302-293-5415; pastorpettit@hotmail.com
Office hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 to 1:00

The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry
melissalemons@gmail.com; 302-803-8866
Office hours: T 11 – 1:00 & appt. Day off: Monday

Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director
Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director

YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM ON YOUTUBE, UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DE WITH THE CURRENT SUNDAY DATE. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, USE LINK BELOW.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4vkddPnbKEzTKIFg-Lkvg>

“Enter to Worship”

*Those who are able are invited to stand ** **Please, no walking or standing during this time.** **BOLD PRINT:** Congregation responds, P: Presider, A: Assisting Minister/Worship Leader

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRAISE & WORSHIP – “Why We Sing”

**Someone asked the question, why do we sing
When we lift our hands to Jesus, what do we really mean
Someone may be wondering, when we sing our song
At times we may be crying and nothing’s even wrong.**

**I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free
His eye in on the sparrow, that’s the reason why I sing
Glory hallelujah you’re the reason why I sing.**

**And when the song is over and we’ve all said Amen
In your heart just keep on singing and the song will never end
And if somebody asks you was this just a show
Lift your hand and be a witness and tell the whole world No.**

**And when we cross that river to study war no more
We will sing our songs to Jesus the one whom we adore.**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Introduction

Mark’s gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today’s gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn’t think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers’ need. We are sent from Christ’s table to care for others and for ourselves.

OPENING HYMN – “I was Glad” *Please Stand*

**I was glad when they said unto me
I was glad when they said unto me
I was glad when they said unto me
Let us go into the house of the Lord.**

**I came running when they said unto me,
I came running when they said unto me
I came running when they said unto me
Let us go into the house of the Lord.
So glad, so glad**

CONFESSION & FOREGIVENESS (PLEASE STAND)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life,
you are shown God’s mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, **powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD (PLEASE BE SEATED)

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he

has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (PLEASE STAND)**

AL-LE-LU-IA, LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO. YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF E-TER-NAL LIFE. AL-LE-LU-IA.

***GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel according to: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

C: Glory to you, O Lord

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once

recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "May the Work I've Done Speak for Me"

**May the works I've done speak for me
May the works I've done speak for me
When I've done the best I can and my friends don't understand
May things I've done speak for me**

**May the life I live speak for me
May the life I live speak for me
When the best I try to mend my mistakes He will forgive
May the life I live speak for me**

**The works I've done seem so small
Sometimes it seems like nothing at all
When I stand before my God I want to hear Him say Well Done
May the works I've done speak for me.**

SERMON

Pastor Clarence Pettit

Notes...

APOSTLES CREED (PLEASE STAND)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or, "he descended to the dead," another translation of this text in widespread use. From sundaysandseasons.com.

Prayers of Intercession (Please sit, stand or kneel)

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to

those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints (*especially*). As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OFFERING

(God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7, 8)

We ask that you place your offering in the plate as you exit the church. God bless you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *All are welcome to communion*

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. We remember and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for the Lord's coming and ask...**Come, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:
(*Alternate/modern versions of prayer in This Far by Faith p. 3, WOV p. 39*)

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 and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life, **we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

If you have been fully vaccinated, you are no longer required to wear a mask. We ask that all others continue to wear a mask.

HERE IS A NEW OPORTUNITY TO DONATE TO UNITY VIA TEXT AND CREDIT CARD. SET UP VANCO ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE BY TEXTING TO (844)794-0738 AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO DONATE BY CREDIT CARD.

Immediately following our morning worship, please stay for a prayer breakfast. It will be held in Luther Hall and all are welcome. Please attend. We have plenty for all!!

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✝ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN -- "Every Praise" Please Stand

**Every praise is to Our God
Every word of worship with one accord
Every praise Every praise is to Our God.**

**God my Savior, God my Healer, God my Deliverer
Yes He is. Yes He is.**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

“Let us exit to serve”

We are called to reach up, reach in, and reach out.....

IF YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 302-658-5288. THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:

**MARY DARRELL
DICK ULLMAN
ERIKA ULLMAN
JIM PIETSCHMAN
DOTTIE DODDS
DELORES BOUZOUKIS
DENIS RODRIQUES
MARY DOUGLAS**

**PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT
PASTOR MELISSA LEMONS
UNITY CHURCH
JOE OLIVER
LUC OYOLA
MIKE (BRAD) BRADLEY
ALEXIS JOHNSON
LISA BRADLEY**