



Sunday, September 12, 2021

16th 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

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We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:

The Rev. Clarence Pettit, Senior Pastor
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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 – “You are Awesome in this Place”

**As I come into your presence, past the gates of praise
Into your sanctuary till we’re standing face to face.
I look upon your countenance, I see the fullness of your grace.
And I can only bow down and say**

**You are awesome in this place, Mighty God.
You are awesome in this place, Abba Father.
You are worthy of all praise to you our lives we raise.
You are awesome in this place, Mighty God.**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Introduction

Three weeks ago we heard Peter’s confession of faith as told in John’s gospel. This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

OPENING HYMN – “We’ve Come This Far by Faith” *Please Stand*

**We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord.
Trusting in His Holy word, He’s never failed me yet.
O O O Can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith.**

CONFESSION & FOREGIVENESS (PLEASE STAND)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

**O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation,
and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for
the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our
cross, and follow 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: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same

opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. *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 8:27-38

C: Glory to you, O Lord

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY "My Life in is Your Hand"

**You don't have to worry and don't you be afraid.
Joy comes in the morning, troubles they don't last always
For there's a friend in Jesus, who will wipe your tears away.
And if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say**

**I know that I can make, I know that I can stand.
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands.**

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)

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters (*recent destructive events may be named here*). Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; 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

God of abundance, **you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life, **in the gift of your body and blood**

**you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL VISITORS TO UNITY THIS
MORNING. PLEASE COME TO OUR PICNIC FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
AND PLEASE COME AGAIN!!**

**Due to the current Covid surge, we strongly encourage all to wear a
mask. For contact tracing purposes, please sign the clipboard at the
back of the church. This is in case we need to contact anyone.**

**Thank you to all who participated in the God’s Work, Our Hands pro-
ject. We had a lot of clothing donated, and we are grateful to all of
you for caring about your neighbors.**

**Our community garden is in full bloom. It is located on the Bancroft
Parkway side of the church. Please take a bag and help yourself to
all the fresh vegetables.**

**On September 19th we will have a prayer breakfast, immediately fol-
lowing morning worship. Please make plans to attend.**

**Fall Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 @
7:00 pm. We invite you all to join us. This is a recurring meeting at
7:00 pm on Wednesdays. Join Zoom meeting:
[https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/87206052414?pwd=
cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUT09](https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/87206052414?pwd=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUT09)**

Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414

Passcode: 717690

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87206052414#.....0#,,717690# US (Wash, DC)

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Dial by your location:

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414

Passcode: 717690

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87206052414>

LCS Walk/Run will be held on September 18th.

Confirmation class for all students age 12 and older will begin soon. Spencer Drummond will lead this group. More info to follow.

Please come and help clean up the church property this Saturday, September 18th. We will be trimming all the bushes in front of the big church window and along Lancaster Avenue. Bring gloves and tools.

THE SENDING

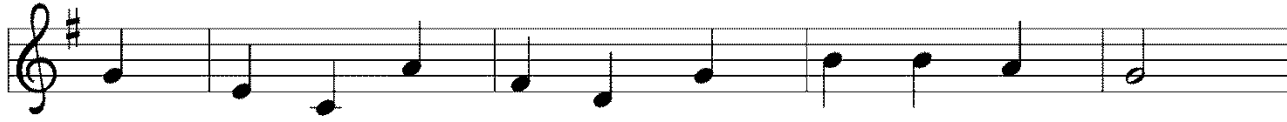
God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.

BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✚ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN – ELW #834 Please Stand

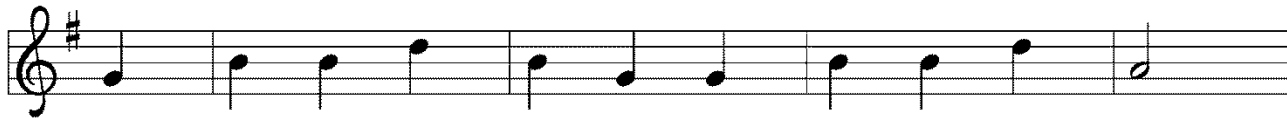
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



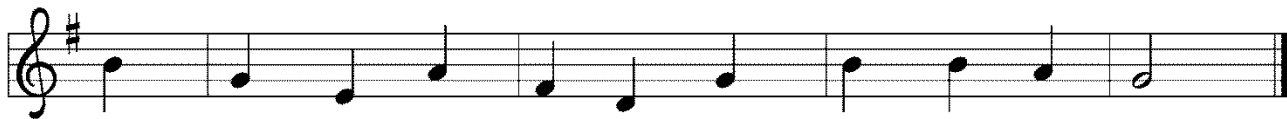
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - mighty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **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:

**LORI NEWTON
DICK ULLMAN
MARY DOUGLAS
JIM PIETSCHMAN
DOTTIE DODDS
DELORES BOUZOUKIS
DENIS RODRIQUES
GERALDO MORALES
REGION BERNARD-LAMBERT
ROBIN LAMBERT**

**PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT
PASTOR MELISSA LEMONS
UNITY CHURCH
JOE OLIVER
LUC OYOLA
MIKE (BRAD) BRADLEY
ALEXIS JOHNSON
DENNIS BAKER
SCRIPTURE BERNARD-LAMBERT**