



**Sunday, September 19, 2021**

***17th 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 – “I Give Myself Away”**

**I give myself away, I give myself away so you can use me.  
I give myself away, I give myself away so you can use me.**

**Here I am, here I stand. Lord my life is in your hands.  
Lord, I’m longing to see, your desires revealed in me.  
I give myself away.**

**Take my heart, take my life as a living sacrifice.  
All my dreams all my plans, Lord I place them in your hands.**

**My life is not my own, to you I belong.  
I give myself, I give myself to you.**

### **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

#### **Introduction**

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

**OPENING HYMN – “I Love You, Lord” *Please Stand***

**I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice  
To worship you, O my soul rejoice  
Take joy my king in what you hear  
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.**

**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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants 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 11:18-20**

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,

let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

### **Second Reading: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*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 9:30-37**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY "At the Altar"**

**At the altar you can tell Jesus all about it.  
At the altar you can tell what your heart has to say.  
You can tell Him how you need Him.  
How to thank Him and how you love Him.  
At the altar when you kneel to pray.**

**So if your journey through life has been bittersweet  
And courage to dream has turned incomplete.  
At the altar your brokenness He will meet.  
There's joy in knowing He's near.**

**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](http://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.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict (*especially*). Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today (*especially*). Shine your grace on all your saints. 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. IT IS SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU 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.**

**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.**

**TODAY we will have a prayer breakfast, immediately following morning worship. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND....WE HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD.**

**The organization United Voices is requesting donations of bedding (all sizes, new or gently used) and feminine care products during the month of September. Thank you for your contributions.**

Fall Bible Study is being held every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. We invite you all to join us. Join Zoom meeting:  
<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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+1 346 248 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?pwd=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUT09>

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

## 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 #587 Please Stand**

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.**
  
- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.**
  
- 3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.**
  
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful;  
let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.**

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

## **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**