



**Sunday, September 5, 2021**

***15th 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 – “Change My Heart, O God”**

**Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.**  
**Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.**  
**Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.**  
**Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.**

**You are the Potter. I am the clay.**  
**Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.**

### **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

#### **Introduction**

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today’s gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don’t deserve the goods meant for God’s children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

**OPENING HYMN – “Order My Steps” *Please Stand***

**Order my steps in your word, Dear Lord.  
Lead me, guide me every day.**

**Send your anointing Father, I pray.  
Order my steps in your word.  
Please order my steps in your word.**

**Humbly I ask thee teach me your will.  
While you are working, help me be still.  
Satan is busy, God is real. Order my steps in your word.  
Please order my steps in your word.**

**Bridle my tongue, Let my words edify.  
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in thy sight.  
Take charge of my thoughts both day and night.  
Please order my steps in your word.  
Please order my steps in your word.**

**I want to walk worthy.....my calling to fulfill  
Please order my steps, Lord.....and I'll do your blessed will.  
The world is ever changing.....but you are still the same.  
If you order my steps.....I'll praise your name.**

**Order my steps.....in your word.  
Order my tongue.....in your word.  
Guide my feet.....in your word.  
Wash my heart.....in your word.  
Show me how to walk.....in your word.  
Show me how to talk.....in your word.  
When I need a brand new song to sing,  
Show me how to let your praises ring.**

**In your word.....In your word.....  
Please order my steps in your word.  
Please order my steps in your word.**

## **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**

Gracious God, **throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD (PLEASE BE SEATED)**

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

### **First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

### **Second Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the

good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*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 7:24-37**

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

**SERMON**

**Pastor Melissa Lemons**

**Notes...**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Trouble Don’t Last Always”**

**I’m so glad trouble don’t last always  
I’m so glad trouble don’t last always**

**May not come when you want Him, but he’s on time (on time)  
In time of trouble, found Him to be a friend of mine (of mine)**

**When storm clouds rise in your life, He’ll be there (be there)  
All your burdens the Lord will help you to bear**

**Weeping may endure for a night  
Keep the faith it will be alright.**

**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.*

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*



You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. 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.**

**“God’s Work, Our Hands” will be on September 11 & 12.  
We will be collecting clothing for all ages. Drop-off times will be  
Tuesday & Thursday (Sept. 7 & 9, 2021) at the Food Pantry en-  
trance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street side of the church between the hours of  
9:30-11:00am. For persons assisting with setting up, the commit-  
tee will be sorting and arranging between 2-4 pm on Friday, Sept  
10<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to Noon we will have  
tables set in the parking lot for distribution to take place. We will  
be serving light refreshments. Volunteers are needed to assist with  
refreshments. For more information, please see Sister Helen Pettit  
in the absence of Rev. Sanders.**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> we will have a prayer breakfast, immediately fol-  
lowing morning worship. Please make plans to attend.**

**There is a separate offering plate in the back of the church. The  
funds from this offering will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response**

**for the benefit of the Haitian people who have suffered with a hurricane and an earthquake.**

**LCS Walk/Run will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Fall Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 @ 7:00 pm. We invite you all to join us.**

**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 – "Every Praise" Please Stand**

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

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

## **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:**

**MARY DARRELL  
DICK ULLMAN  
MARY DOUGLAS  
JIM PIETSCHMAN  
DOTTIE DODDS  
DELORES BOUZOUKIS  
DENIS RODRIQUES  
LISA BRADLEY  
REGION BERNARD-LAMBERT**

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