



Sunday, October 24, 2021

**22nd 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 – “Never Would Have Made It”

Never would have made it. Never could have made it without you. I would have lost it all. But now I see how You were there for me.

And I can say....I’m stronger, I’m wiser, I’m better, much better. When I look back over all You brought me through.

I can see that You were the One I held on to. And I never, never would have made it

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Introduction

Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as “Son of David” he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won’t give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus’ question, “What do you want me to do for you?”

OPENING HYMN – “THE LORD IS BLESSING ME RIGHT NOW”

Please Stand

**The Lord is blessing me right now O right now.
The Lord is blessing me right now O right now.**

**He woke me up this morning, started me on my way.
The Lord is blessing me right now O right now**

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

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. **Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness
of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to
seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Je-
sus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD (PLEASE BE SEATED)

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

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 10:46-52

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Bartimaeus comes to Jesus with faith, asking that he might see again. Recognizing Jesus' identity, Bartimaeus is the first person to call him "Son of David" in the Gospel of Mark.

⁴⁶As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵²Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY "Use Me" PLEASE STAND

If You can use anything, Lord, You can use me.

If You can use anything, Lord, You can use me.

Take my hands, Lord, and my feet.

Touch my heart, Lord, speak through me.

If You can use anything, Lord, You can use me.

**I remember a story in the Bible days. You took a man called Moses
With a rod in his hand. You told Moses, "Take the rod in your hand,
stretch it forth and walk on dry land".**

If You can use anything, Lord, You can use me.

**I remember a story, I remember it well. He took a shepherd boy,
David, with a sling in his hand. He took the rock with the sling in
his hand. Flung the rock and the giant fell dead. And I know if You**

can use anything, You can use me.

Take my hands and my feet. Touch my heart, speak through me.

SERMON

Rev Brian Sanders

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)

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

Risen One, we give you thanks for congregations and ministries throughout the world that serve as centers of prayer and action. Empower missionaries, teachers, healers, evangelists, and all who are sent to share your song of joy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, we give you thanks for generous land that produces abundant harvests. Strengthen and protect all soils, from rooftop gardens to prairie farmlands, to patio planters to fertile valleys, and bless all who lovingly tend them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, we give you thanks for leaders of nations who work to build up the common good. Strengthen efforts of reconciliation among all nations (*especially*), that peace extends in every direction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing One, we give you thanks for all who labor for the health of others. Comfort and strengthen all who struggle with chronic pain. Send healing and relief to all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Providing One, we give you thanks for all who provide for others. Inspire generosity in your people, so that we carry out the work of making disciples of all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living One, we give you thanks for the saints who have increased our faith. Give us courage to follow in hope until you gather us all around your table of abundance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **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.

The organization United Voices is requesting donations of silver-ware/kitchen items and feminine care products during the month of October. Please leave your donations in the Narthex and mark them for United Voices. Thank you for your contributions.

Our next clothing giveaway will be held on the church property on November 6, 2021 from 9:00-12:00 noon. When cleaning out your closets this fall, please save your donations and bring them into the church during the week prior to the clothing giveaway. Refreshments will be provided to all attending that day.

**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)

+13126266799,,87206052414#.....0#,,717690# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington, DC)

+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/u/kdQ1bHf9Vz>

Confirmation class for all students age 12 and older will begin on November 7th through Zoom. The classes will be held the first and third Sundays of each month. Spencer Drummond (Chemsdl12@gmail.com) will lead this group. You can contact Spencer through his email address.

Our Food Bank needs your assistance. Volunteer to help out in the pantry. For more information, see Ted Wells or Bob Mazzoni. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Every Sunday following morning worship (except the 3rd Sunday of each month), Ruth Joe is inviting us to pray with her in the Weiser Room.

A cell phone was left in the kitchen last Sunday. It is in the secretary's office on the desk.

If you are interested in serving on the 2022 Church Council, please contact Chris Henderson through chenderson86@verizon.net.

THE SENDING

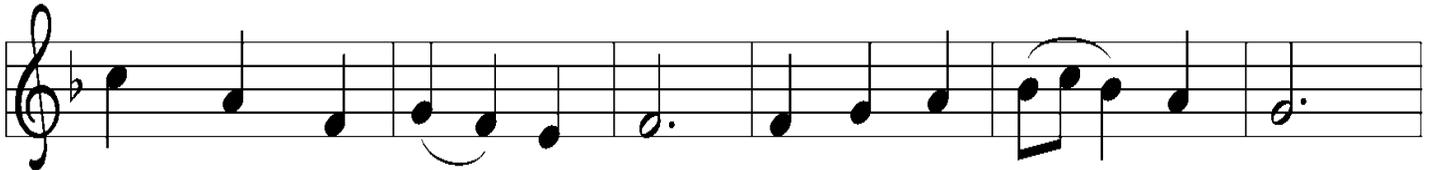
God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.

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 #673 Please Stand

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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
JOSH LAFFERTY**

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

