

Woodbury United Methodist Church

August 2, 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *O Lord, I Know You Are Near* Dan Schutte
Christopher Shay, Keyboard

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Genesis 32, Matthew 14
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

Come, all you who are weary.
Christ strengthens us with love and grace.

In this strength, we can do all things.
We are here, ready to receive God's blessings.

HYMN *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* Wesley/Young
based on Genesis 32:24-32
Hymns sung by Amanda and Abby Cloud

OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Rynn Naylor, Liturgist
based on Matthew 14
from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Mighty God, pour out your power and strength on us. Grant us the nourishment we need to receive your word. May your presence fill our lives and carry us forth, preparing us to be your people and equipping us to do your work in the world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES led by Rev. Thomason
Catherine Mason and Meg Temple; co-chairs, Children and Youth Ministry Team
*Abigail Cloud, Harrison Harwood, Alyna Jones, Emily Matson,
Grace Bower Richardson, Samuel Temple, Zachary Varnum*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS led by Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER led by Rynn Naylor

SCRIPTURE READINGS read by Rynn Naylor
Lessons for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Genesis 32:22-31

Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Matthew 14:13-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Wesley/Parry

SERMON

Finding Blessings in Our Struggles

Rev. Thomason

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

O God, source of all that makes life possible, giver of all that makes life good:

We gather to give you our thanks, yet we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness. What we have we take for granted, and we grumble about what we lack. We have squandered your bounty, with little thought of those who will come after us. We are more troubled by the few who have more than the many who have less. Forgive us, O God. In this hour of worship, accept our thanksgiving; and teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRIVATE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

based on Genesis 32, Matthew 14

from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

God's strength is enough. Christ's forgiveness is sure. Through God's strength and Christ's grace, we are blessed, loved, and made whole. **Amen.**

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Lathbury/Sherwin

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF FOOD

from *At the Lord's Table*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Creator and Sovereign of the universe. You call the worlds into being, and by your appointment the seasons come and go. You bring forth bread from the earth and create the fruit of the vine. You have made us in your image and given us dominion over the world. Earth has yielded its treasure, and from you hand we have received blessing upon blessing.

Therefore, with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy Father, we bless you for your boundless love in the redemption of the world by your Son Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor. When he was hungry, he resisted the temptation to make bread for himself, that he might be the bread of life for others. When the multitudes were hungry, he fed them. He broke bread with those whom others scorned, but the greedy he drove out of the Temple.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead, he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and as he continued to appear in their midst he ate in their presence and gave them food. In

the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

Therefore, recalling your Son's death and resurrection, his ascension and his abiding presence through your Holy Spirit, we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we offer in union with Christ's sacrifice for us, and a living and holy surrender of ourselves.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine, we may know the presence of the living Christ; be one body in him, cleansed by his blood; faithfully serve him in the world; and look forward to his coming in final victory. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

from *At the Lord's Table*

Lord, your word and your sacrament give us food and life. May this gift of your Son lead us to share his life for ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Bread of the World

Heber/Hodges

BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomason

POSTLUDE

Wind, Wind, the Blessed Holy Spirit

Jane Clowe