

Woodbury United Methodist Church

September 20, 2020
16th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Impromptu
Christopher Shay, keyboard

Schubert

GREETING

Rev. Paul Hibbard

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 145*)

I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever.

I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever.

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.

I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles.

Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness.

The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies
Anna Richardson

J. Barnby

CENTERING PRAYER (From David Adam)

Rev. Hibbard

I weave a silence on to my lips. **(A brief silence)**

I weave a silence on to my mind. **(A brief silence)**

I weave a silence within my heart. **(A brief silence)**

I close my ears to distractions.

I close my eyes to attractions.

I close my heart to temptation.

Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm.

Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.

Let all tumult within me cease.

Enfold me, Lord, in your peace.

Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)

(A time of silence)

CHILDREN'S TIME

led by Diane Hibbard

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

led by Rev. Hibbard

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Joann King, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Read by Joann King

Lessons for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost
From the *Revised Common Lectionary*

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30 (*NRSV*)

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:21-30 (*NRSV*)

And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!"

HYMN OF PREPARATION

A Change in Me
Anna Richardson

Menken/Rice

SERMON

All's Fair in Love and Generosity

Rev. Hibbard

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

O Rest in the Lord
Laura Brush

Mendelssohn

BENEDICTION

Rev. Hibbard

POSTLUDE

Sonata in E

Scarlatti

Reminder of Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 27 – Joint worship service with St. Paul’s Episcopal Church; 9:30 AM, North Green; *Rev. Tuesday Rupp* (St. Paul’s rector), preaching

Sunday, September 27 – Annual Connecticut District Conference (virtual), 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Sunday, October 25 – Joint Church Conference for Valley Parish congregations (virtual; time to be determined)

Friday, October 30 – WUMC Church Conference (virtual), 6:00 PM



Woodbury United Methodist Church

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Doors

Love Spoken Here

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