



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
****Please stand as you are able in body or spirit***

Prelude~ “There’s a Praise Ringing”

Welcome~ Rev. Dr. Andrea Cummings-Wratee

***Opening Hymn~** “What a Mighty God We Serve”
#478 AAHH

Opening Prayer

***Offering**

Doxology~ “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”~#650
AAHH

Prayer of Illumination: Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open our understanding so that we may receive the Word of life. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

***The Scripture Readings**

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21: Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even

though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

***Psalter~** #824-825 UMH, Psalm 103:1-13

***Second Reading:** Romans 14:1-12: Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Preparation~ “Amazing Grace” - #271 AAHH

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35: Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Proclamation~ Dr. Cummings-Wratee

****Affirmation of Faith: (881 UMH): I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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. (*universal)***

Prayers of the People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

****Confession/Pardon/ The Peace~ Pg. 8***

Thanksgiving & Holy Communion~ Pgs. 9-11

Lord’s Prayer

Post Communion Prayer: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Announcements

****Benediction***



Blackall, Pippa. Prophet Miriam, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57589> [retrieved September 9, 2026].

Mark your Calendar

The Unified Board Meeting is on Sept 13 following morning worship.

The 4th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor is on September 20th at 3:00 pm. The theme is Fruitful Ministry, and the guest preacher is the Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole Wilson.

#7025 NAACP St. Mary's Branch annual Freedom Fund Jazz & R&B Brunch is Oct. 10th from 11 am-3 pm at the Bay District Fire Department. Tickets for a table of 8 are \$400 (\$50 per person). We can have multiple tables. Mark on your envelope: NAACP Brunch.

146TH Church Anniversary weekend, October 16-18. Fish Fry on Oct. 16th and an Afternoon of Praise on Oct. 17th at 3 pm. If you would like to join the anniversary committee, contact the pastor.

Ace's Angels 4th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk is Saturday, October 17, 2026, at the Leonardtown Wharf Park, Leonardtown, MD from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. This year our mission is to Walk for Hope and Healing. Bring your family and friends. Together, we can make a difference.

Church conference on November 7, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. at Mt. Harmony-Lower Marlboro, 155 E. Mt Harmony Rd., Owings, MD.

Announcements? If you have an announcement or prayer request, please email it to zionlexpk@gmail.com by Wednesday.

Ready to Join Zion? Please text 301-997-3328. Pastor Cummings will reach out to you to arrange a time to discuss the membership vows and schedule a Sunday to join Zion.

