

September 17, 2023, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)

Prelude

Gathering Music: Sunshine Gospel Singers: *The Unclouded Day*

Welcome

†Congregational Hymns

He Touched Me

Something Beautiful

Freely, Freely

Joys & Thanksgiving Prayer

Offertory: Celebration Choir: *Ascension Prayer*

Doxology 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Spirit of the Living God

Silent Prayer Over Names

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Prayer Response

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

†Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that your whole church may be one with you as you are one with us in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-33

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church 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 servants. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with all his possessions, and payment to be made. So, the servant 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 servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow servant 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 servants 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 servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Invitational Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Receiving of New Members

(Congregational Response)

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you at Christ United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction

Benediction Response

Freely, Freely

Postlude