

**July 18, 2021 Worship**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Welcome**

**Songs:** *Step By Step; Word of God Speak*

**Call to Worship:**

L: Come, people of God, and give thanks to the God who claims you!

C: We have been blessed in Christ.

L: Once we were far off,

C: But now we have been brought near.

L: Once we were strangers and aliens,

C: But now, in Christ, we have become one family.

L: There is only one body, one God who unites.

C: We will speak the truth in love. Come, Holy Spirit!

L: Be strong in the Lord and the strength of God's power.

C: The Spirit will keep us standing firm.

L: Pray at all times, keep alert, and persevere.

C: And speak boldly the hope we have in Christ!

L: As one body of Christ, we worship together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

**A: Amen!**

**Songs:** *Shout To the North; Sanctuary*

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Children's Message**

**Message:** *Unity*

**Songs:** *Let the Peace of God Reign*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

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 to the dead. 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.

## **Offering**

As members of your household, O Lord, we come rejoicing into your presence, offering the best of what we have, dedicating it to your service for the benefit of all whom you call beloved: our whole human family. Accept what we bring and bless it, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Confession**

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

L: Loving God,

C: You have offered us the world and yet we turn to our own distractions, believing we know better. We have not lived as your beloved children, born of one spirit, and belonging to one family. Instead we cut ourselves off from what is unfamiliar, intimidating, or different. Forgive us for our limited vision. Forgive us for not trusting in

you and your promise to never give up on us. Forgive us also for the sins we lift up in silence...

L: We have been adopted into God's family, an identity which cannot be taken from us. God is love, God is patient, God is merciful. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! We owe eternal thanks to the lover of our souls for continually reaching for us and holding us fast in an embrace of forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

A: Amen!

### **Communion** *Remember Me*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are no longer strangers! Our Lord has broken down the dividing walls, revealing a table big enough for everyone. Come now, and gather around the One who unites us, feeds us, forgives us, and sends us out saying, "Do likewise!"

### **Song:** *One Bread One Body*

### **Prayers and The Lord's Prayer**

C: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Ministry Opportunities**

### **Blessing**

We leave this time of worship no longer strangers, but as members of God's own family, united as one through the blood of Jesus Christ. Together, we are being built into a holy dwelling place where God strengthens us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Go now with joy and confidence to love and serve the world, in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

**A: Amen!**

**Song:** *We Want to See Jesus Lifted High*

### **Dismissal**

L: This worship service is over. Now let the service to others begin. Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

**Next Sunday:** Ephesians 4:1-16

*A few questions to consider throughout the week ...*

- What does Paul say we are called to be?
- Who is your enemy?
- Why did God send Jesus?
- How do we become united?