

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 19 July 2020

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements:

Greeting**: This is none other than the house of God.

This is no less than the gate of heaven.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

God hems us in, behind and before,
and lays hands of blessing upon us.

Such knowledge is too wonderful to imagine.

It is so high we cannot attain it.

Rejoice, for we are in the house of God.

Give thanks and sing, for this is the gate of heaven.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Opening Prayer**:

Great Explorer,

You have searched us and known us,
and are acquainted with all our ways;

**You hem us in, behind and before,
and discern our thoughts from afar.**

You know when we sit down, and when we rise up;
you are closer to us than our very breath.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us,

It is so high we cannot attain it.

Search us, O God, in this time of worship
and test the measure of our hearts.

**Breathe your Spirit within us,
and claim us as children of light,
that everyone we meet might be blessed
through the gift of your Spirit. Amen.**

(2)

Opening Hymn: 127 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination**:

Release us, Holy One. from the chains that bind us.
that we may be a people of hope once more/

**Release us, Great Spirit,
that we may be truly free. Amen.**

First Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalter: (*Insert, alternate leader and people*)

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

*Hymn of Preparation: 388 "O Come and Dwell in Me"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon: "*Tough love*"

Affirmation of Faith: 887 "Affirmation from Romans 8:35,37-39"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

The Peace: Let us offer one another
signs of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God

(3)

Offering/Offertory

Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Thanksgiving**:

God of dreams and visions, open our eyes to see your angels
ascending to heaven and descending to earth
as they bring your manifold blessings;

**Open our hearts to offer you our thanks and praise
as we pour out the oil of gladness
in honor and witness of your presence among us. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn: 414 (*Tune: 710*) "Thou Hidden Love of God"

Closing Prayer**:

Wherever you are on life's journey

Open your eyes to see the gate of heaven.

The wings of the morning bring us to the presence of God.

Wherever you are on the highway of life

honor and respect the weeds that grow among the wheat.

Our hearts are ablaze with God's holy fire.

Go as children of the living God. Amen.

Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

Going Forth

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