

*Sunday, July 26, 2020*

# *Eighth Sunday After Pentecost*

## *Order of Service*

**Gathering Song**..... “**Sweet, Sweet Spirit**” (*Hymnal, #334*)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

**Greeting/Call to Worship**.....**Sister Cynthia**

Leader: Waiting is never easy for us.

**People: We are a culture of “instant” response.**

Leader: Today, God is asking us to wait; to be patient.

**People: It is not going to be easy for us to do that.**

Leader: Quiet your spirits and open your hearts to God’s word for you today.

**People: Lord, be with us. Help us to be ready to hear and respond to your word. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise** ..... “**I Am Thine, O Lord**”  
(*sing along with instrumental*)

1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice,  
and it told thy love to me;  
but I long to rise in the arms of faith  
and be closer drawn to thee.

*Refrain:*

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to the cross where thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to thy precious, bleeding side.

2. Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,  
by the power of grace divine;  
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
and my will be lost in thine. (*Refrain*)

3. O the pure delight of a single hour  
that before thy throne I spend,  
when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God,  
I commune as friend with friend! (*Refrain*)

4. There are depths of love that I cannot know  
till I cross the narrow sea;  
there are heights of joy that I may not reach  
till I rest in peace with thee. (*Refrain*)

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sins. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Through your spirit open our hands and hearts and cleanse us from all our sins. Forgive us, O God and forgive us of our failures. In your name we ask. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer** (*Recite in unison*)

### **The Invocation**

**Song of Meditation — “I Can Depend on God”** (*song by: Rev. Charles Nicks & the St. James Adult Choir*) *Special Request from Charlotte*

### **The Prayer of Illumination** (*Unison*)

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses. So that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading #1**

(*Genesis 29:15–28, Common English Bible*)

<sup>15</sup> Laban said to Jacob, “You shouldn’t have to work for free just because you are my relative. Tell me what you would like to be paid.”

<sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters: the older was named Leah and the younger Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah had delicate eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and was good-looking. <sup>18</sup> Jacob loved Rachel and said, “I will work for you for seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter.”

<sup>19</sup> Laban said, “I’d rather give her to you than to another man. Stay with me.”

<sup>20</sup> Jacob worked for Rachel for seven years, but it seemed like a few days because he loved her.

<sup>21</sup> Jacob said to Laban, “The time has come. Give me my wife so that I may sleep with her.” <sup>22</sup> So Laban invited all the people of that place and prepared a banquet. <sup>23</sup> However, in the evening, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he slept with her. <sup>24</sup> Laban had given his servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her servant. <sup>25</sup> In the morning, there she was—Leah! Jacob said to Laban, “What have you done to me? Didn’t I work for you to have Rachel? Why did you betray me?”

<sup>26</sup> Laban said, “Where we live, we don’t give the younger woman before the oldest. <sup>27</sup> Complete the celebratory week with this woman. Then I will give<sup>[b]</sup> you this other woman too for your work, if you work for me seven more years.” <sup>28</sup> So that is what Jacob did. He completed the celebratory week with this woman, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.

### **Scripture Reading #2**

(*Romans 8:26–39, Common English Bible*)

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don’t know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. <sup>27</sup> The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God’s will. <sup>28</sup> We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He didn’t spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won’t he also freely give us all things with him?

<sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. <sup>34</sup> Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

<sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

*We are being put to death all day long for your sake.  
We are treated like sheep for slaughter.*

<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. <sup>38</sup> I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers <sup>39</sup> or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

### **Scripture Reading #3**

*(Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52, Common English Bible)*

#### **Parable of the mustard seed**

<sup>31</sup> He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.”

#### **Parable of the yeast**

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough.”

#### **Parable of the treasure**

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.

#### **Parable of the merchant**

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

#### **Parable of the net**

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. <sup>49</sup> That's the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, <sup>50</sup> and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

#### **Treasures new and old**

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

They said to him, “Yes.”

<sup>52</sup> Then he said to them, “Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest.”

**Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”** (*recite in unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

**The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed”** (*recite in unison*)

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 Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried:  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on 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.**

**The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father”** (*Recite in unison*)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

**Children / Youth Moment** .....**Sister Jaime**

**Hymn of Preparation — “Love Lifted Me”** (*sing along with instrumental*)

1 I was sinking deep in sin,  
Far from the peaceful shore,  
Very deeply stained within,  
Sinking to rise no more;  
But the Master of the sea  
Heard my despairing cry,  
From the waters lifted me,  
Now safe am I.

*Refrain*

Love lifted me, Love lifted me,  
When nothing else could help,  
Love lifted me.  
Love lifted me, Love lifted me,  
When nothing else could help,  
Love lifted me.

2 All my heart to Him I give,  
Ever to Him I’ll cling,  
In His blessed presence live,  
Ever His praises sing.  
Love so mighty and so true  
Merits my soul’s best songs;  
Faithful, loving service, too,  
To Him belongs. (**Refrain**)

3 Souls in danger, look above,  
Jesus completely saves;  
He will lift you by His love  
Out of the angry waves.  
He’s the Master of the sea,  
Billows His will obey;  
He your Savior wants to be—  
Be saved today. (**Refrain**)

**Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene Matthews**

*“Just Imagine”*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call ..... Rev. Eugene Matthews**

**Selection — “How Great Thou Art” — *song by Mahalia Jackson***

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

# Announcements

## Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**Re-entering Task Force working diligently, but the church will remain closed.** Please don't forget to send your comments / suggestions on what you think the re-entry should be like.

**Saturday, September 12, 2020** — The **236<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held online. This move to a virtual Annual Conference is made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing as the church seeks to privilege life, especially among its vulnerable members. A practice run for voting members will be held prior to the September conference.

**General Conference — August 31, 2021–September 10, 2021**

**Jurisdictional Conference — TBA**

**130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Shirts** — I'm sure you have seen the email about the purchasing of our commemorative shirts. **Sizes:** Small to XL = \$15; 2X = \$17; 3X = \$19. **If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact Millicent at the church email.**



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*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...  
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

**Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List:** If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

Nena Hughes, Deysa Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma's Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley's brothers), Barbara Matthews, Charles Burley, Richard Cager, Jr., Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

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