



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 3, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Prelude in A minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

Leader: In the midst of struggle and strife, God is with us.

People: Praise be to God for God's steadfast presence.

Leader: Even though many things in life hurt and disappoint us,
God is with us.

**People: We seek God's mercy and grace
to heal our wounded souls.**

Leader: Come, bring your needs and wants to God,
for God will hear your cries and restore your souls.

People: Praise be to God for mercy, peace, and hope. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord, we come to you today
with so many things on our hearts.**

**You call us to be in relationship
of trust and love with you and
you offer healing to us
for those portions of our lives
that are broken and injured.**

Help us to be open to your mercy and healing love.

For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

The Hymn No. 2230

Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing

SUGAR GROVE

1. Lord, we come to ask your blessing
on the love that makes us one;
here, as Christians, to acknowledge
you are Lord, and you alone.
2. God of love, unless you bless us
how can we each other bless?
Only as you live within us
is there depth of happiness.
3. May our loving be a sharing
of the gifts we each possess;
may no failure of forbearance
turn our love to bitterness.
4. Lord, we come to ask your blessing
in the presence of our friends:
Grant us joy that blesses others,
grant us love that never ends.

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The Scripture Lesson

Mark 10:2-16

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Homily

Disciples and their Deep Relationships

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with
our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Let the Little Children Come to Me

Theodore Beck

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God
like a little child will never enter it.

Mark 10:14, 15

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The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; adapt. by Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are full, full,
Bless - ed is he who comes in the
of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
name of the Lord. high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Adapt. © 1985 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

(The congregation may be seated.)

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert, arr. by Charles H. Webb

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come a-gain.

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert, arr. by Charles Webb



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Hymn No. 643

When Love Is Found

GIFT OF LOVE

1. When love is found
and hope comes home,
sing and be glad
that two are one.
When love explodes
and fills the sky,
praise God, and share
our Maker's joy.
2. When love has flowered
in trust and care,
build both each day,
that love may dare
to reach beyond
home's warmth and light,
to serve and strive
for truth and right.
3. When love is tried
as loved ones change,
hold still to hope
though all seems strange,
till ease returns
and love grows wise
through listening ears
and opened eyes.
4. When love is torn
and trust betrayed,
pray strength to love
till torments fade,
till lovers keep
no score of wrong,
but hear through pain
love's Easter song.
5. Praise God for love,
praise God for life,
in age or youth,
in husband, wife.
Lift up your hearts,
let love be fed
through death and life
in broken bread.

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The Benediction

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning and throughout the week to make this worship possible.

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:2-16

² Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”
³ He answered them, “What did Moses command you?”⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.”⁵ But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you.⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’⁷ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰ Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.¹¹ He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her;¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Jesus Blesses Little Children

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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