

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

17th Sunday After Pentecost

September 24th, 2023

We Gather Together In The Lord's Name

Tolling of the Bell and Prelude

Coming of the Light

Welcome and Announcements

Let Us Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship

*Morning Call to Worship:

In the prayers and the praise, in the words and the wonder:

We are given enough joy to live each day.

In the justice for the oppressed, in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

We are given enough compassion to use in service each day.

In the promises made to all, in the mercy offered to each:

We are given enough grace to share each day.

*Hymn of Praise.....“I Am Thine, O Lord”.....#419

*Opening Prayer: *(please join in unison)*

Lord, make us free...free with eyes not focused upon ourselves; free with ears open to hearing Your Word;

Free with hands reaching out; free with hearts no longer chained by what we possess, but bound, instead, by what we can share.

Yes, Lord, make us free...free to worship; free to be extravagant with thankfulness; free to break open the most costly oil upon your feet;

Free to love as love really is, In Jesus' name. Amen.

Responsive Reading.....“Canticle of Covenant Faithfulness”.....#125
“Your face, Lord, do I seek. Hide not your face from me.”

Children's Moments..... “Jesus Loves Me”.....#191

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

The Promises of God Comes to Us Through The Word

Epistle Lesson.....Philippians 1:21-30

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson.....Matthew 20:1-16
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Gospel Prayer *(please join in unison)*

God of miracles and of mercy, all creation sings your praise.

Like the vineyard owner, your grace is extravagant and unexpected.

Lead us to repentance and the acceptance of your grace, that we may be witness to your love, which embraces both those we call friend and those we call stranger.

Amen.

*Hymn of Hope“Precious Name”.....#536

Sermon.....“Hard Times”.....Rev. Ben Rogers

The Word of God Comes to Us Through the Holy Spirit

Affirmation of Faith.....“The Apostles' Creed”.....#881

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology.....#95

*Offertory Prayer

Go and Share the Love of God

*Hymn of Commitment....“God Be with You till We Meet Again”.....#672

*Benediction:

Go out from here as workers in God's upside-down kingdom, where the last are first and the first are last, where needs are met in miraculous ways, and there is grace enough for all!

And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit surround you and sustain you in the coming days. Amen.

*Postlude

**Please Stand If Able*

^^Please make sure to silence your cell phones^^

^^ Please remember during/after the tolling of the bell occurs to be seated, quiet, and prepare your hearts for worship. ^^

^^When our worship ends, our service begins!^^

Announcements & Upcoming Events:

- ❖ **Sunday, September 24-** Committee Meetings
 - *Monticello Administrative Council (Following Worship)
 - *Bethel Administrative Council (5:30pm)
- ❖ **Wednesday, September 27-** Courage Bible Study: Chapter 1 (6:30pm at Bethel)
- ❖ **Sunday, October 1-**
 - *World Communion Sunday (During worship at Monticello and Bethel)
 - *Feed The Hungry Sunday (During worship at Monticello and Bethel)
 - *Parsonage Committee Meeting (Following Worship at Bethel)
- ❖ **Monday, October 2-** Bethel Christian Women & Fairfield Christian Men (7pm at Bethel)
- ❖ **Sunday, October 8-** Charge Conference 2023 (12pm at Bethel)
- ❖ **Tuesday, October 10-** Mature Years (11am at Bethel)
- ❖ **Monday, October 16-** Covenant Prayer Group (10am at Bethel)

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today at Bethel UMC for the Glory of God by Ms. Janet Davis.

Prayer Thought of the Day

Faith and prayer can feel invisible at times, but they make impossible things possible.

The Churches Are in Prayer For:

Monticello UMC- Ellen Bradley, Allen Brock, Don Gunter, Helen Suber, Robert Davis, Noelani Dirnbauer, Sandra Harrison, Kenny Martin, Katherine Hughes, Lindsey Gunter & the Gunter family, Bobby Mack, Sam Mack, Will Pope, Anne Robinson, Irene Dukes, Laura Collins, Tom & Brenda Davis, Brenda Crone, Sandra Pherigo, Gretchen & Guy Burley, Ellen Blackstone, Bradley Leach, David Young, Al McMeekin, Buck Morrison, Jay Manis, Connor McCann, Mike Houck, Margaret Robinson, Family of Carey Merriweather, Nancy Ricketts,

Bethel UMC- Bob Bazinet, William Bundrick, Sherry Crosby, Billy and Diane Dove, Epworth Children's Home, Buddy Beckham, Jackie McDaniel, Greg Robertson, Sheryl Ashford, Jerry Arnold, Mary Cathryn Wilson, Marian Faile, Joseph Schachner, Mary Ella Ruff, Christian Moore, Teresa Taaffe, Lindsey Gunter, Frankie Lewis, Jackie Bech, Mary Ellisor, Mary Isbell, Alice Glass, Una Bowers, Willie Long, Family of Jimmie Parker, The unity in our county, state, nation, and world

CONTACT INFORMATION: (Office Hours: TUES/TH 9am-1pm)

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