



FIFTH AVE. UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
323 South 5th Avenue
West Bend WI 53095

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 10, 2023

Sue Fowell, Liturgist
Deanna Gibeau, Organist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE
Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC
Whether you're just beginning to explore
your faith or have been following Christ for
years, you and your whole family can belong
at Fifth Ave. UMC

***Note: L - denotes worship "Leader"**
P - denotes "People"

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE:	"Give Ear Unto Our Prayer"	Muriel Dillon
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~WELCOME & CENTERING~

GREETING:

Pastor. That which refuses to be broken, refuses to be blessed. It is in the breakings of life that produces the blessings of life. Some of the most blessed people that you will ever meet, have gone through something that broke them before they got to the blessing. Because the blessing is hidden in the broken. **Happy Grandparents Day, please know you are loved forever and always!** Come people of God, let us joyfully and committedly worship God together. In Jesus name. Amen.

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673;

Email -rev.cmartinelli6@gmail.com

CENTERING MUSIC: **“Send the Light “** **Charles Gabriel**
Dave & Polly Bertelsen and Steve & Sherry Gerhartz

***INVOCATION:**

Leader: God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)**

L: We are the Easter people!

P: We have witnessed the Resurrection of our Lord.

L: We are now called to be people of the Pentecost.

P: We are called to boldly share the Good News of God’s love.

L: Open your hearts, O people, to God’s great power and love.

P: We open our hearts to hear God’s word for us and to joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ as our Savior. Amen.

***GATHERING PRAYER:**

L: God of surprises, we come here from the weariness of the week, from various triumphs, from fears and doubts. Open our hearts to receive your surprising message of hope for all people, for we ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

***PRAYER OF PETITION: (Unison)**

Leader: The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God’s mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God’s love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

(Silence)

All: Risen and ascended Lord Jesus, when we are numbed by the suffering of the world, take us back to the deep truth of your power and glory, of your invincible Kingdom, of your promise of reconciliation. In the knowledge of this truth, help us to bring our gaze to earth and find the strength to go into the world as witnesses, doing your will on earth as in heaven. To build the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (Responsively)**

L: In this place we find God's Word, God's Way, God's Love, God's Forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

P: In every wilderness, on every road; in every moment, in every life; in every journey, in

every heart, we receive the daily bread we need—God’s Hope, God’s Mercy, God’s Joy.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”**
(We Are One in the Spirit)” **TFWS 2223**

~WE PROCLAIM~

***Acts 1:1-11~The Message (MSG)**

Leader: Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he said good-bye to the apostles, the ones he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but “must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon.”

People: When they were together for the last time they asked, “Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?” He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

All: These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “You Will Be My Witnesses: God’s Job Description for Every Christian”
Pastor Clarissa

SERMONIC HYMN: “Surely the Presence of the Lord” x2 **UMH 328**

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

Pastor: God of all goodness:

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We would like to settle into a nice, comfortable routine, Lord, in which we don’t have to do much of anything, just sit back and relax. We are tired and wonder if we have anything left to give of our talents, our spirits, our lives. The story of the disciples hiding in the upper room is not uncomfortable for us; we want to hide, too. But you have come to us in your resurrection

love - we have seen the prints of the nails in your hands and feet, we have felt the wound in your side. We have been with you on the seashore, but we still quiver with fear and uncertainty. Send your Holy Spirit upon us today! Let the rushing wind of your Spirit, stir us up to action for good and healing. Let the flame of your power ignite our hearts to witness with passion for justice and peace. As we have brought names of people to prayer this day asking for healing mercies, *may we also add our names*, asking for empowerment and renewal of our spirits. Take us and use our gifts and our talents for healing in your world. Help us to be bold in our proclamation of your great Good News of love and hope.

[Silent Prayer]

LORD'S PRAYER:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

~2023 WEST BEND FARMERS MARKET~

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~

***DOXOLOGY:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

All: God of power and might: We, like Peter, struggle with the image of a savior sent to suffer and die. We may seem to be doing great in following Christ, but we too stumble at this point. Perhaps we stumble because we know that what follows is Christ's call to us to deny ourselves and pick up a cross of our own in order to follow. As we bring gifts for the work of building your Kingdom, help us to learn to deny, carry, and follow. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen. (Matt 16:21-28)

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Gather Us In" TFWS 2236

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

L: Go into the world, clothed with power from on high, carrying Christ's message of forgiveness and joy. The power of the Holy Spirit will go with you as you bear witness to this good news. Amen. **Amen.**

Pastor: Awesome Spirit! You have inspired us this day to be witnesses to God's love and power. Help us to be joyful in our service and strong in our faith for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we go in peace, with God's peace in our hearts. Amen.

***POSTLUDE:**

"Stand By Me"

Robert J. Hughes

Please join us for continued Fellowship during our Coffee Hour.