

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebration of Worship – *Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost - September 27, 2020*

PRELUDE.....“Clair de Lune”.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
from *Pièces de Fantaisie*
Louis Vierne

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. David Hobson

† CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Dr. David Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Soldiers of Christ, Arise”.....No. 513

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Debby Williams

CELEBRATION OF LIFE.....Jeff Zeagler

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*He that dwelleth in the secret place....*Dr. Jon Barker, baritone
of the most High
[Psalm 91]
James G. MacDermid

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Acts 26:19-29.....Debby Williams
See scripture reading on Text Page

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† GLORIA PATRI
*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.*

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JOYS & CONCERNS.....Dr. Pat Day

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

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 who 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE.....*Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated*.....Men's Ensemble
MESSIAH

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Be Still My Soul*.....Men's Ensemble
arr. H.E. Singly III Robert Cruz, Piano

† DoxologyNo. 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!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Esther 4:9-17.....Dr. Pat Day
See scripture reading on Text Page

MESSAGE.....**STANDING FIRM; IMPACTING A DESTINY**.....Dr. Pat Day

I. First, we need to **INFILTRATE** positions of leadership and influence.

II. Second, we need to **INFLUENCE** others for Christ.

III. Third, we need to **INVEST** our lives in others for Christ and His Kingdom. Esther replied, "If I perish, I perish."

IV. Finally, we need to make an **IMPACT** for others.

† *HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Forward Through the Ages”.....No. 555
*(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family
are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)*

BENEDICTIONDr. Pat Day

SENDING FORTH.....*Grace, Love, and Fellowship*.....Men’s Ensemble
Tom Fettke

POSTLUDE.....“Final”.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
from Symphony #1
Louis Vierne

Crucifer: Kensey Scoggin

Acolytes: Molly Reagan, Gillian Barrett

† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*



Hymn of Praise No. 513
“Soldiers of Christ, Arise”

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies thru his eternal Son;
Strong in the Lord of Hosts, and in his mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.

Stand then in his great might, with all his strength endued,
But take to arm you for the fight the panoply of God;
That having all things done, and all your conflicts passed,
Ye may o’ercome thru Christ alone and stand entire at last.

Pray without ceasing, pray, (your Captain gives the word)
His summons cheerfully obey and call upon the Lord;
To God your every want in instant prayer display,
Pray always, pray and never faint, pray, without ceasing pray.

From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray,
Tread all the powers of darkness down and win the well-fought day.

Still let the Spirit cry in all his soldiers, “Come!”
Till Christ the Lord descends from high and takes the conquerors home.

Hymn of Invitation No. 555
“Forward Through the Ages”

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service, one the sure reward.

Refrain

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light;
For it we must labor, till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,
Poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.

Refrain

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.
Bound by God’s far purpose in one living whole,
Move we on together to the shining goal.

Refrain

Affirmation of Faith

No. 881

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 Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at 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.

Acts 26:19-29

“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

“I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

Esther 4:9-17

Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.