

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 18th at 10:00 a.m.

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker”

Psalm 95:6

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude Music

****Call to Worship***

God loves us with a steadfast love.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

Let us believe and have eternal life!

God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

Let us have faith to receive this grace!

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

Opening Prayer

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us. It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace, as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.

Opening Hymn of Praise “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” UMH #384. Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Music: John Zundel, 1815-1882. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**

**2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;**

**Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Prayer of Confession

God, we have sinned against you. We have spoken against you and your servant Jesus.

We have uttered lies.

We have cursed you and others.

We have said vulgar things.

We have been consumed by doubt.

We have been bitten with the venom of hatred in our world.

We have oppressed the helpless.

We have been intolerant of others.

We have delighted in violence.

We have spent money foolishly.

Please, Lord God, forgive us our transgressions, that we may be healed of our sin.

Words of Assurance

Hear now the loving truth of God: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God, Amen!

Anthem

Scripture Reading Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSV)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon "The Vastness of God's Love" Rev. Matthew Sergent

Hymn "Christ Beside Me" TFWS #2166. Words: St. Patrick's Breastplate; adapt. by James Quinn
Music: Trad. Gaelic melody. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me never to part.**

**2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising light of my life.**

Repeat verse 1.

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

***Sending Forth Hymn** "I Love to Tell the Story" UMH #156. Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911
Music: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.**

I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee.

(Refrain)

3. I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word.

(Refrain)

4. I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.

(Refrain)

Benediction

From far and near, we have been brought close to one another in the heart of God.

As we wander forth in the world, may we remember that God dwells in us, and that God's Spirit is as near to us as our very breath.

Postlude