

Celebration of Worship

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for lemonade in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Reflection

“Commandment # 1: Believe in yourself.

Commandment #2: Get over yourself.”

Kristan Higgins

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE *Novelette* Purvis

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We come with thanksgiving for the wonders of this warm and sunny season.

Many: Let us praise the God of the harvest.

One: We come with anticipation for all that lies ahead at home, at church, and in our community.

Many: Let us praise the God of the banquet.

One: We come with joy in the knowledge that the Spirit remains a constant through all the seasons of life.

Many: Let us praise the God of all the seasons!

All: Let us sing our praises to God!

* Please stand, if you are able.

* HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* # 376

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE 4 MISSION

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

Prayer

Children in Kindergarten and older remain in worship with their families.

* HYMN *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* # 310

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43* p. 794

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Ephesians 4:7-11* p. 951

SERMON *What a Real Christian Looks Like: The Power to Change* Part 3 of 4
Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst

LITANY OF CONFESSION (responsively)

Leader: Who do we say that Jesus is? In our finest moments, we declare God's truth:

People: Jesus is the Messiah, God-with-us, Savior of all, Shepherd and Friend; Jesus is Lord of our whole lives.

Leader: Who do we say that Jesus is? In our weakest moments, we utter deceptions:

People: Jesus is a magician who makes our problems disappear, a superhero who rescues us from trouble. Or, he is a nice man who lived once upon a time – not offensive, benign, sentimental and dull. A superstition. A wishful imagining. A Sunday morning diversion who asks nothing from us.

Leader: Forgive our feeble and false affirmations.

People: Empower us to answer the question with renewed energy and integrity.

Leader: Who do you say that Jesus is?

People: Love beyond all loving, Name beyond all names, Hope beyond all wishing, Eternal Mystery, Word-made-flesh, Our Redeemer. He lives. He asks great things of us and empowers us for the tasks of discipleship. He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Amen.

THE MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Intermezzo in A* Brahms
Barbara Hackett - Piano

DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

* HYMN *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* # 326

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE