

# *Celebration of Worship*

## *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

July 30, 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

*“The power which I cannot explain or know or name I call God. God is not God’s name. God is my name for the mystery that looms within and arches beyond the limits of my being. When I pray to God, God’s answer comes from within, not beyond. God’s answer is YES – not to the specifics of my prayer, but in response to my hunger for meaning and peace.”*

*E. Forrester Church*

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE *Adagio Cantabile from “Pathetique Sonata”* Beethoven

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

OPENING RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF PRAISE adapted from a 12<sup>th</sup> c. liturgy

Leader: O Lord, you are beyond my understanding!

**People: How much juice can you squeeze from a single grape?!?  
How much water can you draw from a single well?!?  
How great a fire can you kindle from a tiny spark?!?  
How great a tree can you grow from a tiny seed?!?**

Leader: My soul is so dry that by itself I cannot pray;

**People: Yet you can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers!**

Leader: My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;

**People: Yet you can draw from it boundless love for God and for my neighbor.**

Leader: My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;

**People: Yet you can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.**

Leader: My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;

**People: Yet by your power my faith grows to a great height.**

**All: Thank you for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;  
Let us always be prayerful, loving, joyful, and faithful.**

Leader: Why have you come here this morning?

**People: We have come to get in touch with all of these gifts as we worship God together!**

\* Please stand, if you are able.

\* HYMN *O God, in a Mysterious Way* # 270

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *Finding Answers to Our Questions*

Prayer

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

REMEMBERING OUR SIN

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

\* HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* # 568

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52* p. 795

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Ephesians 4:17-24* p. 951

SERMON *What a Real Christian Looks Like:* Part 4 of 4  
*Why Are We Still Crawling if God Made Us to Fly?*

Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst

THE MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY *In the Upper Room* adapted from  
Rose Njumbwa, soloist Mahalia Jackson

DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

\* HYMN *We’ll Understand It Better By and By* Insert

\* BENEDICTION (responsively) from *Psalm 121*

One: From where will our hope come in times of trouble?

**Many: Our help comes from God, who created the heavens and the earth.**

One: May God continue to watch over you as you come and go, keeping you safe from harm, this day and forever. Amen.

\* POSTLUDE *Jig* Seelby