Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Nicodemus Series: Bless Their Hearts!
August 15, 2021
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PRELUDE
They'll Know we are Christians by Our Love
How Beautiful
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

ANNOUNCEMENTS
GREETING
CALL TO WORSHIP (The Apostle’s Creed)
Pastor: Let us testify to what we believe, using the Apostle’s Creed:
All: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven; he is seated on the right hand of the Father; and he will come again to judge the living 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.*

HYMN
The Church’s One Foundation

ACT OF CONFESSION
Pastor: When we gather as God’s people, the church, we remember that we have preferred our will to God's. Accepting the power of the Spirit to be renewed in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: *God of grace, we grieve that the church, which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and one calling, has become a broken community in a broken world. The one body spans all time, place, race, and language, but in our fear, we have fled from and fought one another, and in our pride, we have mistaken our part for the whole. Yet we marvel that you gather the pieces to do your work, that you bless us with joy, with growth, and with signs of unity. Forgive our sins and help us to commit ourselves to seeking and showing the unity of the body of Christ. Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Based on Ezekiel 36:26)
Pastor: “I will put a new heart and spirit within you; I will remove from you, your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh,” says the Lord God. Children of God, hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed.”

All: *Thanks be to our Lord. We will strive to live as the holy body of Christ.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE
Pastor: As we have been given peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other, using the words: The peace of Christ be with you…

All: *And, also with you.*

EPISTLE READING
1 Corinthians 12:1-31

GOSPEL READING
Matthew 16:13-20; 28:1-20
OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: All the rules and laws of our faith can be summed up in the law of love for God and one another. Everything “hangs” on that – the law of love. We don’t just talk about love here at Starview United Church of Christ; we bring it to life in ministry: we offer hospitality, we build community, we act in compassion, we do justice work, and in all these things we worship and love God, and we offer our love to our neighbor. That is what this ministry, and our gifts, are about, and all of it hangs on love. Let us our gifts of time, talent, and money to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERTORY PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: God of life, we pray that our unity will be seen not only in what we believe but also in how we work together - as one holy catholic church. May our gifts today be a sign for each other and the world, that we pledge to work together in your name for the healing of this broken and hurting world. We continue to pray through Christ, who taught us: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

BENEDICTION (Based on Ephesians 4:1-3 and 1 Peter 1:16)

Pastor: People of God – BE the Church.
“Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Congregation: God who called us is holy; so then, shall we be holy in all we do. This means, we will love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and we will love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Pastor: May it be so. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Lord, You Give the Great Commission
Blest Be The Tie That Binds

John Fawcett

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
2. Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers;
3. We share our mutual woes, Our burdens bear;
4. When we a part, It gives us inward pain;

fellowship of kindred minds Is flows in heart,

feared, our hopes, our aims are one, Our
ten for each other flows The
we shall still be joined in

like to that above.

comforts, and our tears.

hope to meet again.
The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation, by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.