

References

- The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer were written by Gill le Febre for *Sunday Prayers: Matthew 15:21-28*. Material was accessed and adapted by Pastor Laura on Wednesday, August 10, 2023. <https://gill-lefevre.medium.com/sunday-prayers-matthew-15-21-28-64820d7a313c>
- The Confession was accessed and adapted by Pastor Laura on Monday, August 7, 2023 from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/prayer-of-confession-matthew-1521-28.html>
- The Worship liturgy today was written by Nancy Townley for *Ministry Matters: Worship Connection: August 20, 2023*. Material was accessed and adapted by Pastor Laura on Monday, August 7, 2023. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8353/worship-connection-august-20-2023>

August 20, 2023
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Laura Baker

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Seeking God's way, unsure of what lies ahead -
All people: *Let the wisdom of God's Word help us learn to love.*
Pastor: Confronted by difficulty and stretched by possibility -
All people: *Let the strength of God's mercy help us grow in love.*
Pastor: Challenged by setbacks, confusion, or distress;
All people: *Let the promise of God's grace help us persist in love.*

HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Bulletin Insert

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Guiding Lord, light of direction and discernment,
All people: *Shine in our hearts today.*
Pastor: As we journey through life,
with events and upsets we do not understand,
All people: *Steady us with the patience of faith.*
Pastor: When all feels lost and we are tired by our days,
All people: *Strengthen us with the persistence of faith.*
Pastor: Daunted by obstacles in our lives and in the world,
All people: *Embolden us with the courage of faith.*
Pastor: When hurts and slights sting or indifference isolates us,
All people: *Soothe us with the essence of faith.*
Pastor: Embrace us in your eternal love and
remind us of your reassuring promise,
All people: *To be with us always, to the end of our days. Amen.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love. Let us pray, first in silence.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Merciful God, we confess that, just like Jesus' disciples, we too sometimes lose patience with people who need our help and support. Like the disciples, we find ourselves wishing that they would just go away and leave us in peace. In your mercy, forgive us.

Remind us again of the deep love you showed toward us when we were still in need— a love so deep that it sent you willingly to the cross on our behalf. Show us how to love others as you have loved us. Teach us your compassion, so that we may be your hands and feet to those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God's love is greater than our understanding and comprehension and that love is continually given to each of us, every day. Rejoice! God's forgiving love is poured out for you now and always. Receive God's healing. Be transformed. Walk anew in the loving, healing ways of Jesus Christ.

All people: May it be so!

PRAISE HYMN

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, #493

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: God's forgiveness and transforming love gives us great peace. Let us turn then, to one another, and share that same God-given peace with each other. Offer the words: "The peace of Christ be with you..."

Congregation: "And, also with you."

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

God Will Take Care of You

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OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 3:15

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 15:10-28

SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mr. Kevin Crone

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Cathy Rentzel, Treasurer

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: As God has so richly blessed us, let us return a portion of these blessings to God, asking that these gifts may be used in service to others through the ministries and mission of this church. Let us dedicate our offering by singing the Doxology and offering a Prayer of Dedication.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, #258

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Generous God, whose love knows no boundaries, work in us to remove the limits of our love. Bless all we offer – time, talent, and monetary gifts - to heal those we repel as untouchable, to feed those we reject as undeserving, and to comfort those we dismiss as incomprehensible. Expand our love and our offering to see you in the world and to serve you in our lives. Amen.

HYMN

God Be With You

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BENEDICTION

Pastor: God calls us to step out in faith, to follow where Jesus leads even if what we are called to do seems impossible.

So, let's go from here with courage, trusting in God's presence and power, and eager to do God's will.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and within you wherever you find yourself this week.

All people:

Amen.

POSTLUDE