

References

- The Call to Worship is based on Psalm 138. Written by Pastor Laura Baker.
- Beth Merrill Neel wrote the Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession. They were accessed and adapted by Pastor Laura on Monday, August 14, 2023, from her blog *Hold Fast to What is Good*. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>
- The Offering Invitation, Prayer of Dedication and Benediction were accessed and adapted by Pastor Laura on Monday, August 14, 2023, from the United Church of Christ: Worship Ways for *August 27, 2023. Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost, "Identity"*. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-13a-august-27/>

August 27, 2023
Thirteenth 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 (Based on Psalm 138)

Pastor: We give the Lord thanks, with our whole hearts.

We sing praise and give thanks

for God's steadfast love and faithfulness endure forever.

All people: *On the day I called, the Lord answered me.*

The strength of my soul was increased.

Pastor: Though the Lord is high, the lowly are remembered.

The haughty are perceived as from far away.

All people: *Though I walk in the midst of trouble,*

the Lord preserves me against the fury of all that is an enemy.

The Lord stretches out a hand, and I am delivered.

Pastor: The Lord's purposes for us are being fulfilled.

God's steadfast love and faithfulness endure forever.

All people: *The steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord endures forever!*

Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Using "sins")

All people: *Faithful God, we gather this morning with those who love you, that we might sing your praises and share your love with one another. You have shown your faithfulness to us every day in ways that we do not always recognize, so we gather today in order to thank you for your constant watch and care over us. Help us to entrust our lives to you and your purposes as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: "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.*

HYMN

Lord, Jesus Christ Be Present Now

Red Hymnal, #28

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but rather, an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in Christ's abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: God of steadfast faithfulness, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We get angry at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We bask in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment to which you call us. We care for ourselves but not for others – not really. Forgive us, we pray. Move us to heartfelt repentance in a moment of silent prayer and make us whole.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this amazing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All people: Alleluia! Amen.

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

Faith of our Fathers

Red Hymnal, #282

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 4:1b-11

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Amazing Grace"

Mrs. Gloria Moyer, Dulcimer

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: Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven and follow it with the Doxology and 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: Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kingdom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

Red Hymnal, #322

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As you go, take the keys of heaven with you.
Unlock hope in a world in need of encouragement.
Unleash joy where there is despair.
Bestow grace and mercy.
Give peace room to grow.
Release love with every encounter.
In the name of God, the Creator,
Christ, the Redeemer,
and Holy Spirit, the Sustainer.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE