Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Emily Moyer, Guest Preacher
July 18, 2021
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PRELUDE
GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—
members of God’s family,
and brothers and sisters to one another.
There are no outsiders here among us,
no one has any special standing or bragging rights.
For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.
And so we begin, together, in a spirit of humble and grateful prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

All people: Amazing God, we are in awe of your magnificent power displayed throughout the entire universe,
for through you all things were made, and all things have their being. We come before you with
grateful thanks and with hearts that long to adore you, and worship only you. Lord, may we know
the presence of the Holy Spirit here with us today. May we be open to your leading, sensitive to
you speaking and alert to your calling. Heavenly Father, we invite the same power that was at
work when Jesus was raised from the grave to be present with us here now, that we might
experience new beginnings – new life. Lord, we declare that you are welcome here among us!
Amen.

HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
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ACT OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: Every week, we begin worship by remembering that we are God’s children, and all are a part
of God’s family. We also take time to ask God for forgiveness, using a Prayer of Confession,
because we all sin and fall short of God’s hope for us! Assured of God’s mercy, let us confess.

All people: We confess, O God, that we do not live up to the family name: Christian.
We are more ready to resent than to forgive,
more ready to manipulate than to humble ourselves, and serve,
more ready to fear than to love,
more ready to keep our distance than to welcome,
more ready to compete than to help.
We do not love one another as we should,
and in doing so, do not love you, as we ought.
Forgive us our sin.
Make us aware again, of the meaning and depth of your love at the cross and empty grave.
Show us once more what it cost you to give up your Son, and the meaning of sacrificial love.
We want to reflect Christ’s likeness and be the sons and daughters, which you claim we are.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Brother, and Savior.
Amen.

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Liturgist: Sisters and brothers in Christ, we know we all fall short in our discipleship. We’ve confessed our sins before God and one another. By God’s overflowing steadfast love and mercy, we are forgiven!

All people: Thanks be to God. Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: God’s forgiveness gives us peace. Let us pass grace and peace to one another, from wherever we are, with a smile, a nod, a wave, or a two-finger peace sign along with the hearty exclamation: “The peace of Christ be with you.”

Congregation: And also, with you.

GOSPEL READING

John 21:15-25

SERMON

Ms. Emily Moyer

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Liturgist: Let us join together in a spirit of prayer, trusting that God will move us to make real the prayers we pray. Let us pray:

All people: We praise you for your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer now, prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Moment of Silence for Congregation to offer their silent prayers of joy and concern...

Liturgist: Let us continue to pray aloud together:

All people: Loving God, draw us closer to you and one another, and through our words and actions, may the whole world become one with you as you are one with us, in Jesus Christ our Lord. We continue as he taught us saying: 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Based on Ephesians 4:25-5:2)

Liturgist: Each week we come to this moment in worship, when we pause to consider how we express our gratitude and love for God. We pause to consider how the stewardship of our time, talent, and financial resources, reflect the “love” we say we have for the church. We pause to consider how we will share God’s Good News with others through our tithes and offerings. Let us each take a moment to listen to the Spirit’s nudging, and consider our stewardship of God’s blessings…

A moment of silence...

Liturgist: Let us now dedicate our tithes and offerings to the Lord in prayer...

All people: Gracious God, we joyously place before you, our offerings. May these gifts support our ministry so that others may gather in your name and follow your path of love and peace. We, your beloved children, seek to be “imitators of God” and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

This is a Day of New Beginnings

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Video Screen

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BENEDICTION (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Liturgist: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us, that, which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
2. May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,
3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs around me spread,
4. When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream

Saviour divine: Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away, O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!
My zeal inspire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A living fire!
Be Thou my Guide; Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Saviour, then, in love, Fear and distress trust remove; O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul! A-men.
This Is a Day of New Beginnings
2 Cor. 5:16-17
Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

1 This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings—our God is making all things new.

* In faith we’ll gather ’round the table to taste and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings.