

Welcome to Worship

**First United Methodist Church
Making Disciples for Jesus Christ and the
Transformation of the World**

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2020**

408 North Baylor, Brenham, TX 77833-3213
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www.fumcbrenham.org

Methodist Weekday Child Development Center
979-830-8661



Church Staff

Rev. Bobbie Maltas, Senior Pastor

Rev. Greg Smith, Associate Pastor

Jennifer Patrick, Director of Youth and Wesley Foundation

Chris Ann Stroech, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Matt Hulon, Minister of Music

Diane Garrett, Organist

Kris Trevino, Office Manager

Delores Hammargren, Administrative Assistant

Raemona Burks, Child Development Center Director

Lelli Hernandez, Nursery Coordinator

Cindy Mathis, Custodian

Traditional Worship

Introit

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (*Congregation Bold*)

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

We proclaim that God's presence is real and alive and thriving!

Evildoers declare through their actions, "We go through life alone."

But we see God's grace, faithfulness, and steadfast love in our lives and in the world around us.

Praise be to God!

***Hymn of Celebration**

Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

UMH 315

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought forth Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.
2. 'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.
3. Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

4. Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold thee as a mortal;
but today amidst the twelve
thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore
passeth human knowing.

5. "Alleluia!" now we cry
to our King immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
"Alleluia!" with the Son,
God the Father praising,
"Alleluia!" yet again
to the Spirit raising.

***Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 27-39**

UMH 887

Leader:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

People:

No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.
We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

UMH 70

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Children's Moment

Chris Ann Stroech

Prayer of Illumination (*Congregation Bold*)

Our eyes are clouded over by daily cares and fears. By the power of your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to receive and employ the instruction you offer through your Word. Bring alive these ancient texts that we might find ourselves – even our cares and fears – in the faith stories you have put before us on this day.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 14: 19-31

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and

the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Rev. Bobbie Maltas

Gospel Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

UMH 560

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Sung Amen

UMH 898

Giving our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Patient Lord, you amaze us each day with your ability to forgive our many sins. You display merciful acts and answer our prayers in profound ways. Help us to be stewards of your mercy and grace as these monetary gifts are transformed into active ministries. Multiply the span of these ministries to reach people in new ways. We pray in the name of the one who teaches true forgiveness, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offertory

(Undesignated \$1 bills go to support Dollars for Missions.)

***Doxology**

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts;
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

Holy One, we have been fed by your Word, inspired by your Spirit and now brought to our knees in humble prayer. We offer thanks for your grace and ask forgiveness for the times we have sinned and fallen short. Cleanse our hearts, empty them of anything that displeases you. And then, Holy One, fill us with love for you and one another as we share in the ministry of all. Amen.

***Hymn of Commitment**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH 89

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

***Benediction**

Postlude *Please stay tuned in and enjoy the postlude.*