

# Riverside United Methodist Church

The Eighth Sunday of Pentecost • July 19, 2020 • 9:30 AM

**\*\* The people will rise in body or spirit.**

## GATHERING

Gathering Music

Daniel Kuhn, piano

Call to Worship

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

UMH 150

1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens,  
infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance  
through the silent fields of space,  
we your children, in your likeness,  
share inventive powers with you.  
Great Creator, still creating,  
show us what we yet may do.

2 Proudly rise our modern cities,  
stately buildings, row on row;  
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling,  
stare on canyoned streets below,  
where the lonely drift unnoticed  
in the city's ebb and flow,  
lost to purpose and to meaning,  
scarcely caring where they go.

3 We have ventured worlds undreamed of  
since the childhood of our race;  
known the ecstasy of winging  
through untraveled realms of space;  
probed the secrets of the atom,  
yielding unimagined power,  
facing us with life's destruction  
or our most triumphant hour.

5 As each far horizon beckons,  
may it challenge us anew,  
children of creative purpose,  
serving others, honoring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise,  
each endeavor well begun.  
Great Creator, give us guidance  
till our goals and yours are one.

**\*\*Invocation**

Gathering the Community

Exchange of Peace

## THE WORD

**Hebrew Reading** Isaiah 40:12-15; 23-25 (CEB)

Jan Phelps, liturgist

Who has measured the waters in the palm of a hand or gauged the heavens with a ruler or scooped the earth's dust up in a measuring cup or weighed the mountains on a scale and the hills in a balance? Who directed the LORD's spirit and acted as God's advisor? Whom did he consult for enlightenment? Who taught him the path of justice and knowledge and explained to him the way of understanding? Look, the nations are like a drop in a bucket, and valued as dust on a scale. Look, God weighs the islands like fine dust. God inhabits the earth's horizon— its inhabitants are like locusts—stretches out the skies like a curtain and spreads it out like a tent for dwelling. God makes dignitaries useless and the earth's judges into nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely is their shoot rooted in the earth when God breathes on them, and they dry up; the windstorm carries them off like straw. So to whom will you compare me, and who is my equal? says the holy one.

### Special Music

### Pastoral Prayer

#### **\*\*Gradual**

*Speak, O Lord*

TOWNEND

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your Holy Word.  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us, all your purposes for your glory.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises, and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built and the earth is filled with your glory.

#### **\*\*Gospel Reading** Matthew 6:25-34 (CEB)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**  
One: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew  
**All: Glory to you, O God.**

"Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

One: Living Spirit, Living Word  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
 and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
 and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Sermon

Puzzled: *God is in Control?*

Rev. Keith A. Turner

**THE EUCHARIST****Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings****Offertory****Invitation to Holy Communion**

One: The Gospel writers tell of our Risen Savior, who at table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**All: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

**The Words of Institution**

One: On the night you were betrayed, you took the bread. After giving thanks, you broke it and said, "This is my body, broken for you, and as you eat it, remember me.

**All: This is my body broken for you, and as you eat it, remember me.**

One: On the night you were betrayed, you held the cup. After giving thanks, you lifted it up. "This is my life, poured out for you, and as you drink it, remember me.

**All: This is my life poured out for you, and as you drink it, remember me.**

One: So, we thank you for the wine and for the bread. For we see the love you gave and the life that you shed.

**All: And we remember your wondrous love. You gave your body; you shed your blood. And we remember your wondrous love, you gave your Spirit to live in us.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*And now, with the confidence of children of God, we are bold to pray the prayer Christ has taught us, saying:*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

**Sharing the Bread and Cup****Hymn during Communion***Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

UMH 133

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
 leaning on the everlasting arms;  
 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
 leaning on the everlasting arms.  
 Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
 leaning on the everlasting arms;  
 O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 leaning on the everlasting arms.  
 Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

## **\*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

## **SENDING**

### **\*\*Closing Hymn**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*

UMH 127

1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want to more;  
feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

### **\*\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

Daniel Kuhn, piano

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### **Announcements this Week**

Monday, July 20; 6:30PM – Governing Council Meeting (Rankin Library)

Tuesday, July 21; 9:00AM – Bibles & Bagels (West Side Park)

Thursday, July 23; 7:30AM – Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10:00AM – Woodcarvers and Crafters (Fellowship Hall)