

Riverside United Methodist Church

The Ninth Sunday of Pentecost • July 26, 2020 • 9:30 AM

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

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Daniel Kuhn, piano

Call to Worship

****Opening Hymn**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

UMH 139

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

4 Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life
and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks
that are ever before thee.
Then to thy need
God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

5 Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

****Invocation**

Gathering the Community

Exchange of Peace

THE WORD

Hebrew Reading Psalm 121 (CEB)

Jan Phelps, liturgist

I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. God won't let your foot slip. Your protector won't fall asleep on the job. No! Israel's protector never sleeps or rests! The LORD is your protector; the LORD is your shade right beside you. The sun won't strike you during the day; neither will the moon at night. The LORD will protect you from all evil; God will protect your very life. The LORD will protect you on your journeys—whether going or coming— from now until forever from now.

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** John 9:1-7 (CEB)

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means *sent*). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

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

****Response**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

VASILE

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: *Everything Happens for A Reason?*

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

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

UMH 526

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

****Prayer of Thanksgiving**

SENDING

****Closing Hymn**

SPRING

God, We Wonder Where to Find You

BEACH

1 God, we wonder where to find you;
should we turn our eyes above?
How can people understand you?
Is your love a distant love?
Do our sons rise up to heaven?
Does that language still ring true?
In this world of joy and suffering,
God, we wonder: where are you?

2 God, we wonder at our calling;
is it only in the church?
We may struggle with tradition;
where are you, God, in our search?
We are taught that you are gracious;
can we find you in new ways?
Could there be some brand places
where you challenge and amaze?

3 We are grounded in our neighbors,
in our loved ones, in our towns,
And in daily loving labors,
where your signs of grace abound.
Here in Christ we love each other,
and we care for the oppressed;
Spirit-filled with one another,
we are grounded; we are blessed!

4 God, we trust that you are with us,
dwelling in the here and now.
When we struggle to live fully,
your compassion shows us how.
As we work to bring your justice,
as we seek your peaceful way,
As we put our faith in practice,
may we find you, God, today.

****Benediction**

Sending Music

Daniel Kuhn, piano

Announcements this Week

Tuesday, July 28; 9:00AM – Bibles & Bagels (West Side Park)

Thursday, July 30; 7:30AM – Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10:00AM – Woodcarvers and Crafters (Fellowship Hall)