

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

*"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"*



September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

PROCESSION OF LIGHT----- Kate Thrush, acolyte

PRELUDE ----- "Minuet in D" by Stanley/Thiman -----Dr. Jessica Scott

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus brought healing love to all people.

People: They talked and marveled about his miracles.

Leader: But they really didn't understand him.

People: They wanted the healing, but not necessarily a change in their lives.

Leader: Jesus brings us transforming compassion.

People: Lord Jesus, keep our minds and our spirits open  
to your life-changing words. AMEN.

## OPENING PRAYER

Lord of mercy and compassion, be with us this day as we hear of the healing love of Jesus. Remind us that we are also recipients of his compassion and we are called to bring the same hope and love to others. Prepare us for service in His Name. AMEN.

HYMN ----- “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

SCRIPTURE LESSON -----Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ Then he said to her, ‘For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.’ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’

SERMON-----"Tearing Down Walls"-----Pastor Atkinson  
*(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)*

CALL TO COMMUNION ----- "Welcome, Welcome! The Door Is Open!"

*Text by Thomas Troeger; Music by Carlton R. Young  
Cantor, Don Gardner; Response, Brett Miller and congregation; Dr. Jessica Scott, piano*

*Welcome, welcome! The door is open, there's room for all who come.  
The table's laid, the meal prepared, enough for everyone.*

**(Refrain): This is God's feast, unlike any other,  
Where the greatest and least are sister and brother.**

*Welcome, welcome! You're not too early, too late, too well-to-do,  
Too poor to be an honored guest. A place is set for you. (Refrain)*

*Welcome, welcome! Come join the circle. Enjoy the wine and bread,  
And pass them on to foes and friends till everyone is fed. (Refrain)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient Lord, you know us so well. We are fascinated by healing and can talk all day about the miracles, but we do not understand the compassion of Christ. We often say, "Just heal us; or Just make me rich; or Just make things go better at work" or other such deals and then we promise our faithfulness and witness. But in our hearts, we just don't get it. Please forgive us, Lord, when our greed and fear get in the way of understanding. Help us to know the transformational power of your love. Get us ready to be faithful witnesses to you in all that we say and do. It is in Jesus' Name that we pray. AMEN.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the Name of Jesus Christ, you have been healed. Praise be to God who has given you new life. **AMEN.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. . . .

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. . .

...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine...

...through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

HYMN ----- "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:  
We, your servants, bring the worship, not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go  
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ----- "Allemande" by Greene/Thiman-----Dr. Jessica Scott



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First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



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**OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY**

to Jill Lilly and family

upon the death of her father, Kendall Joel Eldred of Marshalltown, Iowa

August 26, 2021



**THE NURSERY AT FIRST CHURCH**

**Room 207 (2nd Floor)**

*Changing Table — Toys and Games*

*Plush Animals — Books and Puzzles*

*Microwave and Small Fridge — Live-Stream of Morning Worship*

*(The Nursery currently is not staffed, so, First Church folks, please help our visitors needing assistance. Thanks!)*

**OFFICES CLOSED TOMORROW**

In observance of Labor Day, church offices will be closed tomorrow, September 6th.

(Note: We will, of course, open the doors for those attending the two "Twelve-Step" meetings.)

