



# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## August 30, 2020

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Gathering

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, you call us to turn away from our own selfish interests, to take up our cross, and to follow you. **To find our lives, may we live them in service of your mission.**

As we come before you this morning, give us open hearts and open hands. **Make us eager to hear your voice and seek your guidance.**

Open our minds to your ever-present spirit that is always moving within and around us. **Open our spirits to your nudging and open our lives to your love.**

#### GATHERING SONG

*Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW #710)*

*Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r; abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.*

*For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend. Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun; on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run. O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.*

*Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams, our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried; your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.*

## **GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **KYRIE (ELW p. 184)**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8**

A reading from Psalm 26; please read responsively.

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. <sup>2</sup>**Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. <sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked. <sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God,

we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Word

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

*In our first reading, Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, Lord, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

*In our second reading, Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

<sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-27**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.”

<sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Will You Come and Follow Me (#798)*

*"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and foot-steps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

## APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 189)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. 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 and ever. Amen.

### Sending

## BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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. God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

## SENDING SONG

*Here I Am Lord (ELW #574)*

*"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and in my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"*

## Refrain

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" Refrain*

*"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" Refrain*

## **DISMISSAL (ELW p. 192)**

**Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.**

# Ministry & Mission Information

## Large Print Bulletins

If you struggle reading this, the words on the screen, your pew hymnal or pew Bible, we have large print bulletins available which include the full service order of today's worship.

Hearing assistance in-ear speakers are available from our ushers.

## Prayer Concerns

Kerlange Aristide in Haiti, her husband Armstrong and baby Zeke, & Lois Jones (Val Olson's sister, cancer), Sandy Almlie (terminal lung cancer).

## Getting Worship to You

Dale Klein continues to make DVDs of our services. We are also streaming our 10am Sunday worship services live on our church Facebook page. These services and their sermons are also edited and posted to our YouTube and church websites.

## Online Worship Needs

We're excited to share **we will be purchasing digital equipment and a camera** to improve access and quality for those worshipping from home. Initial funding will come from the church's dedicated music fund; two additional gifts have already been given toward this project, more **gifts are welcome** (please write "camera fund" in the memo).

## Lost Items

Miscellaneous items can be found on the lost & found shelf in the narthex. Also unclaimed coats on the coat rack.

## Binders Available

We have updated the black ULW binders for our contemporary worship services and are reducing the number of binders. If you could use any (8.5"x7"), feel free to pick them up from the church library. They still have the old song sheets in them.

## Sunday, August 23

Not including those who tuned in online, 45 disciples were sent out from our in-person worship in God's name to make a difference and \$1,710 was given to support our ministry. Gifts given online through [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) are included in the last Sunday of the month total.

## In-Person Worship & Covid-19

We thank Mike and Connie for continuing and increasing cleaning and sanitation at the church. For the time being:

- pews are taped off for social distancing;
- we will refrain from handshakes and passing offering plates;
- we will not have congregational singing (**except when worshipping outdoors**), food or beverage at church;
- worship attendees will be encouraged but not required to wear face masks;
- additional precautions are being taken when distributing Holy Communion;
- the congregation will be ushered out following worship services;
- we will continue offering online worship opportunities on Facebook & YouTube.

(Some of this is more for indoor services!)

## School Supplies

Deborah Circle is collecting school supplies and anyone can contribute. Items can be placed in the orange basket in the narthex. These supplies will be donated to the local schools.

## Confirmation

Confirmation for the school year begins Wednesday, September 9, with information meetings at church for students and parent(s)/guardian(s) at 6pm (7-8 grade) and 7pm (9th grade). We are hoping to meet in-person every week, but will shift to Zoom if necessary.

## Visitation

Last winter United Lutheran formed a loosely-organized visitation group. The purpose was to remember shut-ins with visits, phone calls or notes. Thank you for continuing this important ministry!

## Sunday School

We are making adjustments to our programming for Sunday school this school year and anticipate resuming LATER this year than normal, on the first weekend in October (10/04). We are still in need of teachers; please contact Carla Gemmill if interested. Stay tuned for more info!

## “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday

After morning worship, Sunday, September 13. We will be making cards for care center residents and cleaning Wheatland residents’ windows.

## Journey Through the Bible

Our Sunday services lessons will take us on a journey through familiar and unfamiliar stories in the Bible this school year, each with a clear theme, starting in Genesis on Sept.13. Sunday school will follow the same stories.

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### Today's Faith and Care Leaders

Reader: Rachelle Romfo  
Ushers: Troy & Rachelle Romfo family  
Projectionist: Xavier Breddin  
Organists: Kathie Johnson & Lisa Schuler

### Next Sunday's Leaders

Reader: Laura Dease  
Communion Prep: Skyler Moline  
Communion Asst:  
Ushers:  
Projectionist: Victor Long  
Organists: Kathie Johnson & Lisa Schuler

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### The Week Ahead at ULC

10AM Worship



**Welcome to United!** We are glad you're here and we pray today's worship would be a blessing to you. Children are welcome here; we have a "quiet space" just in our fellowship area just out our sanctuary's south doors and a nursery with a speaker available to listen to the worship service. If you are looking for a church home or would like more information, please let Pastor Karl know.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Name(s)		
Email	Phone	
Address		
City	State	Zip

- I/we received communion today (please indicate at least annually)
- I contributed my offering with Bill Pay through my bank
- Prayers requested/answered:
- I would like a Pastor to call regarding:

Today, I am a

- Member
- First Time Visitor
- Second Time Visitor
- Regular Visitor

Please send me information about membership in United Lutheran Church

I am a member of another church. Where?

What brought you to United today?