

**Unity Moravian Church**  
August 16, 2020  
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

**THE CONGREGATION GATHERS FOR WORSHIP**

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Just As I Am”

arr. M. Bober

**HEARING GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED**

LITURGY

Jesus’ Purpose

Dana Myers

Our God has come to us.

**We didn’t recognize him for who he was, and wondered why this man Jesus didn’t fit in?**

*Jesus: “I did not come to be popular with the accepted culture;  
I came to include the outcast and those left-out.”*

Our God has come to us.

**We want to be helpful and accommodating, and we have the means to make his life more comfortable.**

*Jesus: “I did not come to make the wealthy feel good about themselves;  
I came to preach the good news to the poor.”*

Our God has come to us.

**We like what you say, most of the time, but, tell us again what school you attended and what degrees you have?**

*Jesus: “I did not come to speak for those who are educated and articulate;  
I came to listen to the voiceless ones and give them voice.”*

HYMN 630

“Good News! Our Christ Has Come!”

Text: Sharon M. Benson

Tune: DARWALL

1. Good news! Our Christ has come! Good news to all the world.  
He comes to preach good news, new life for evermore.  
God’s Spirit dwells in all who care, in all who share ‘til want is gone.

2. Good news! Our Christ has come! He heals the sad of heart.  
He sets the prisoners free and helps the blind to see.  
God’s Spirit works through all who love, through all who touch the lives of these.

Our God has come to us.

**We hoped he would see the evil around us and eliminate the bad ones so we can live and prosper without fear.**

Jesus: *“I did not come to be shown what was wrong;  
I came to tell those who say, ‘we see clearly what is needed,’ that in fact,  
their own ambition and greed has created a blind spot which won’t allow them  
to see God’s way.”*

Our God has come to us.

**We wanted you to make everyone “toe the line” and live correctly, according to the Bible’s laws but, there are so many exceptions to all those rules.**

Jesus: *“I did not come to identify problems;  
I came to know people, for people are always more important than their  
problems, as life is always greater than its failures.”*

HYMN

3. Good News! Our Christ has come! Oppression now may cease.  
Christ claims the side of those who’ve lost their rights and peace.  
God’s Spirit moves to free the slave and fill the empty with good things.

4. Good News! Our Christ has come! His arms reach out and plead  
to share God’s blessings with a lonely world in need.  
God’s Spirit comes to all who ask, to every heart that seeks release.

Our God has come to us.

**We want you to see that the right people are in our congregation, our reputation is good.**

Jesus: *“I did not come to build a benevolent social club and call it my church; I came to announce  
God’s kingdom – a place where the lowly of the world who are pushed aside and  
never loved much, find love, experience acceptance and live a prosperous life.  
I bring this message from my God: ‘...of such is the kingdom of heaven.’”*

HYMN

5. *Good News! Our Christ has come! His mission is proclaimed.  
He wants for all a life that's free of want and pain.  
God's Spirit calls for us to work, for us to serve 'til love prevails.*

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

Mark 1: 1 – 11

Dana Myers

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

POEM

**“The Touch of the Master’s Hand”**

Myra Brooks Welch

(Dottie Sayers, reader; Donna Shore, music)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Gabrielle Stevenson

HYMN 525

“Join We All With One Accord”

1. *Join we all with one accord; praise we all our common Lord;  
For we all have heard His voice, all have made His will our choice.  
Fellows with the saints of old, no more strangers in the fold,  
One the Shepherd Who us sought, one the flock His blood hath bought.*
2. *One our Master, one alone, none but Christ as Lord we own;  
Brethren of His law are we – “As I loved you, so love ye.”  
Branches we in Christ, the Vine, living by His life divine;  
As the Father with the Son, so, in Christ, we all are one.*
3. *One the name in which we pray, one our Savior day by day;  
With one cup and with one bread thus one cov'nant way we tread.  
One in spirit, one in life, one amid earth's frequent strife,  
One in faith and one in love, one in hope of heav'n above.*

TEXT FOR THE DAY

Mark 8: 27 – 33

THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

“Mark’s Gospel part 1”

SILENT REFLECTION

INTERLUDE

“Blessed Assurance”

arr. H. Colvin

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### WORSHIP BY GIVING

[For online giving: You may use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal available to us at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>  
Or, as always, you may send a check via U.S. Mail to the church]

### CONCERNS AND JOYS FOR THE COMMUNITY, NATION AND WORLD

#### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

#### A Prayer for School Openings

O Creator God, we come into this school year struggling to embrace the reality of the virus and its power over us. Today, we prayer for all involved in the education of our children, especially those closest to us.

**We pray for all children who will be learning “on-line” alone in their room. We pray for motivation, so that they are able to grasp the material presented and feel validated as they offer their input.**

O God, there are children going to school who are in classrooms with teachers and classmates.

**We pray that your Holy Spirit will watch over them and keep them safe. We are asking things of our children that we have never asked before, and we pray they will be able to adapt and not be afraid.**

O God, there are children with special needs – physical, mental, social, and emotional. The drastic changes they are asked to endure may become overwhelming.

**We pray for their well-being and for the teachers who will be helping them cope with the challenges before them. We pray for their families as they try to make the best decisions on behalf of their child.**

O God, there are parents who have had to endure hardships beyond anything they have faced before. Many are juggling relationships between their children, their spouse, their bosses and co-workers. The strain of the virus protocols and restrictions are taking their toll.

**We pray for their strength of will and spirit as they press forward. We pray for their peace of mind as they make difficult decisions, all the while balancing their own personal well-being with the well-being of their family.**

O God, there are high school, college and graduate students trying to learn and mature as adult leaders in our nation and in the world. The challenges they face may cause some to give up.

**We pray for them as they are asked to have open minds for knowledge both in textbooks and lessons in life. We pray for their motivation to persevere through this time of pandemic and to make smart choices when it comes to their health and well-being. We pray that your Holy Spirit will guide them through the maze of their academic learning and positive social interaction.**

O God, there are teachers and administrators who feel caught in the middle – concerned with their own health while wanting desperately to live out their calling as educators. **We pray for administrators who try to make the best decision for everyone concerned, and yet find that they cannot please everyone. We pray for their resolve to make peace in their heart, knowing that they are trying their best in this difficult environment. We pray for teachers who love their students and cannot teach in the style they are accustomed. We pray for their ability to adapt and to have confidence in their skills to teach under duress and the constantly changing rules and regulations.**

O God, we feel as if we are living, working, and moving on shifting sands. We struggle to keep our balance going forward. We pray for our sick and for those who risk their health to care for them. We pray for those who are being left out during this pandemic and are struggling to keep employment and home security in place. And we pray for our own sanity and peace of mind as this pandemic continues to grow and consume our lives in so many ways.

**Hear our prayer, and save us, O Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Lord, Speak to Me”

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.*

*O use me, lord, us even me, just as you will, and when, and where,  
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

## **FOLLOWING OUR LAMB INTO THE WORLD**

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

HYMN

“Let Us Follow Our Lamb”

Songbook 79

1. *Let us follow our Lamb who is still leading on,  
Jesus Christ, the Messiah, our God’s own dear Son.*

He's the One who has conquered the struggle life gives,  
and who never gave up but in faithfulness lives.

2. Let us follow our Lamb through the streets of the town,  
where the hurting seek help and the lost ones are found.  
May our hands heal for Jesus, our eyes bear his light,  
and in love may our mouths speak of truth and of right.
3. Let us follow our Lamb through the doors of the church  
where we pray, worship, study, with those who would search  
for our Lamb's words and wisdom, his courage and grace.  
May we love one another in such sacred space.
4. Let us follow our Lamb even up Calv'ry's rise  
knowing nothing can stop God's great plan for our lives,  
for his tomb is still empty, and ours will be too.  
As we faithfully follow, he conquers anew.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

arr. H. Livingston

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**Staff**

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**Watchword Text for the Year**

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,  
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. II Corinthians 4:15

In essentials **UNITY**, in non-essentials, **LIBERTY**, in all things, **LOVE!**

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