

Unity Moravian Church

September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

THE CONGREGATION GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“My Father’s World”

arr. Huguley

HEARING GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

LITURGY

Kingdom of the Poor

Chase O’Brien

The leaders of our world say, “Let us keep those who are weak in their place, for what is weak proves itself to be of no worth to us. We must keep watch for the good person who wears us with notions of equality and justice for every person. He professes to have knowledge of God, even calling himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. . . he avoids our ways because he thinks they are wrong.” (Wisdom of Solomon 2: 10 - 20)

And Jesus said, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Heavenly Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms to the poor. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, put your treasure in heavenly things where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12: 32 – 34)

HYMN

“Gather Us In”

Marty Haugen

*Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

“Let us see if his words are true and let us test what will happen if he resists our ways. Will his God deliver him from the hands of his adversaries?” (Wisdom of Solomon 2: 17 – 18)

Then Jesus answered them, “If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you.” (Luke 11: 20)

“He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1: 10 – 13)

“Gather Us In”

*We are the young – our lives are a mystery, we are the old – who yearn for your face.
we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.*

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered,
"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." (Luke 15:2)

“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.” (John 1: 16 – 18)

“Gather Us In”

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

Lord of hope in bitterness, harvest in hunger, life in death, we offer our prayers of blessing on the feet and lives of women and men living in poverty and taking risks to feed their families and communities. You, Lord, are born into our world, and lead our resistance to injustice, as we seek to relieve women and children who are under the burden of poverty. Invite us into solidarity with them and with you, as you lead us to life and justice. Amen.

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD

Luke 3: 7 – 16

Chase O’Brien

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Zacchaeus”

Children’s Video

HYMN

“For the Healing of the Nation”

CWM RHONDDA

*For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
Help us rise and pledge our word.*

*Lead us forward into freedom, from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness, fear will die and hope increase.
Fear will die and hope increase.*

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow brief life's span.
May we hallow life’s brief span.*

*You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service, earth, its destiny may find.
Earth, its destiny may find.*

TEXT FOR THE DAY

[Luke 3: 21 – 23](#)

THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

[“Luke’s Gospel part 2”](#)

SILENT REFLECTION

INTERLUDE

“Rescuing the Perishing”

Arr. Bennett

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

PRAYER RESPONSE “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu, alleluia*

FOLLOWING OUR LAMB INTO THE WORLD

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

[Chase O'Brien](#)

HYMN 708 “May the God of Hope God With Us”

*May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace!
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all!
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Thy Word, O God in Ages Past” arr. Rogers

* * * * *

Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Barry Foster	barryf@unitymoravianchurch.org
Acolytes:	Kim Felton	timbokk@yahoo.com
	Randy Noffle	rnoffle@gmail.com
	Donna Shore	d1m2shore@gmail.com
Organist:	Dennis Fort	dennisfort@hotmail.com
Choir and Band Director:	Ruth Burcaw and Randy Noffle	
Believers Music Leaders:		

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!**

UnityMC@UnityMoravianChurch.org

Lewisville, NC 27023

336 – 945 – 3801