

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

A Message of Welcome

Morning Announcements

PRAISE

Call to Worship

There is a peaceful space, deep in the heart of God. Here God's people rest after their labors, not as a reward but as a freely given gift. There is a mountain of renewal rising clear before us as our souls and bodies tire. It is cool in the clouds of its heights and gentle in its green valleys. There is a laughing Spirit who calls us on to play and dance in lightness of being, released from the burdens of the journey and to share in the joy of recreation.

This is our God, the giver of life. This is the God of our salvation.

Move among us this day, O Christ, as one who knows our every need.

Touch us gently so that we may pause and be open to you.

Be present with us that we may truly receive all that you have to offer. Amen.

Solo *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Prayer of Confession

O God, we try to share with you the truth --- the realities of who we are and what we have done. You know that sometimes we will not even pause to face our life and its frailties, afraid to be silent and waiting before you in case your grace is not given to us.

Silence

Hold us fast now, O God.

Give us the faith that allows us to stop and receive your love.

Speak to us when we refuse to listen and rush about as though our relentless activity is what you ask of us. Let us see those things which we knowingly turn away from to avoid the needs of others.

Silence

Hold us fast now, O God.

Give us the faith that allows us to stop and receive your love.

Remind us of your abundant love

When we stop to listen, God is waiting for you and I in the silences of rest. God waits for us in kindness, offering to us the healing balm of forgiveness. Hear and believe, In Christ, you are forgiven. Amen. **Amen.**

Interlude

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A reading from the gospel of Mark 6:21-34

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Morning Message *Time Off* Rev. Dr. McCarthy

Morning Prayers • Silent Prayer • The Lord's Prayer (sins)

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Solo *It Is Well With My Soul*

*Benediction

May the Lord bless you and fill you with peace.

May the Lord watch over your journeys and keep you safe.

May the Lord fill you with joy.

May the Lord keep you in his care and make you secure,
for the blessings of God are the source of our peace,
happiness and security.

Go forth now in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen. **Amen.**

Postlude

Columbia
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

