

Bethany United Methodist Church

Order of Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020



“Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH (10:50)

LIGHT AND PRELUDE

Deep in the Shadows of the Past
(TFWS # 2246)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

GREETING

Give praise to God!

Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves. . . .

It is God who forgives. . . .

It is God who delivers. . . .

Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

*HYMN TFWS # 2238

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

*OPENING PRAYER

O God who is our strength,
you have protected us from those who would
seek to oppress us.

You have shielded us from those who would
seek to destroy

the good gifts you have put in us.

Your love and power never fail.

Thanks and praise to you, our safety and stronghold.

We exalt you, O God, majestic in holiness,

for there is none like you. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,
your Word is strong and leads our feet to
your holy dwelling place.
Strengthen and guide us with your Word
through the power of your Holy Spirit;
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

READINGS: Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Solo *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
Billy Nicholson

SERMON

Rev. Julia Webb-Bowden

HYMN *UMH* # 389 *Freely, Freely* FREELY, FREELY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed UMH* # 881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

GLORIA *UMH* # 68, stanza 5

**Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to God who forgives and saves.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God,
you lived for us—we have not lived for you.
You have forgiven us—we have not
forgiven others.
You have loved us—we have not loved ourselves
nor have we loved one another.
Take pity on us and forgive us, God.
Help us to forgive.
Help us to live for you.
Help us to love through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, our sins are forgiven.
God is merciful and gracious and is
Lord of us all.
Reconciled to the God who loves us,
let us live and love through Christ our Lord.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
(UMH # 390)

Kentucky Harmony

DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer.

SENDING FORTH

HYMN UMH # 121

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness
(UMH # 169)

Giovanni Glacomo Gastoldi

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Office 919-477-6659

Website: www.bethanyumcdurham.org

E-mail: bethanyumc1@gmail.com

Pastor's E-mail: julia523@nccumc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TODAY Bible Study @ 4:00 pm (Zoom)

September 16 Choir @ 6:30 pm (Zoom)

September 17 Vital Conversations @7:00 pm (Zoom)