

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**August 27, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Our help is in the name of the Lord our God, the maker of heaven and earth, who comes to our aid in times of need, who gives us the courage to do what we know is right, who invites us to turn away from the influences of the world around us and confess him alone as Savior and Lord. This is our God! Let's worship together! Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

arr. Anna Laura Page

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

Sisters in the Lord

Joyce Lloyd

## **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Though the Lord is exalted,

**People: he looks kindly on the lowly.**

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

**People: you preserve my life.**

Leader: You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;

**People: with your right hand you save me.**

Leader: The Lord will vindicate me;

**People: your love, Lord, endures forever.**

**The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)**

Leader: Merciful God ... example set by Your Son, Jesus Christ.

**People: In Your mercy, hear our prayer of confession.**

Leader: We confess ... without feeling envious.

**People: Forgive us. Teach us to whole-heartedly love one another.**

Leader: We confess ... than sharing them freely.

**People: Forgive us. Teach us to live with generosity and compassion.**

Leader: We confess ... our hurtful words and actions.

**People: Forgive us. Teach us to turn away from what is wrong and pursue what is right.**

Leader: We confess ... to leave thoughts of vengeance behind.

**People: Forgive us. Teach us to love even those who hurt or offend us.**

Leader: God, call us ... bring honor and glory to you, O Christ!

**People: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

(Silent prayer of confession.)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

**Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children's Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

Romans 12:1-8

**Solo** “Come, Gracious Spirit”

Luigi Zaninelli, 1987

Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
With light and comfort from above;  
Be thou our guardian, thou our guide,  
Over every thought and step preside.  
The light of truth to us display  
And make us know and choose thy way;

Plant holy love in every heart,  
That we from thee may never depart.  
Lead us to heaven, that we may share  
Fullness of joy forever there;  
Lead us to God, our final rest,  
To be with Him forever blest. Amen

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 16:13-20

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon**

“A Living Sacrifice”

Pastor Steve Watters

## **The Response to the Word**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

**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 again 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.**

### **\*Hymn**

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

#700

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Offering**

### **\*Response**

“Give Thanks”

#647

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### The Sending of God's People

\*Closing Hymn "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

#727

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"



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\*Postlude "You Shall Go Out With Joy!" arr. Douglas E. Wagner

**Pastors:** Steven A. Watters  
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Joyce Lloyd

**Acolytes:** Devin Griggs, Nate Angel

*Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA to London, OH in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.*

*Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.*

*Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: "Make me an instrument of your peace."*