

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, July 5, 2020 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Order of Worship  
including Communion and Scripture

*If you would like to participate in Communion, please have your bread and juice (or their substitutes) ready before beginning worship.*

*Seasonal Theme:*

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

*Theme for the day:*

Christ comes to lighten our burdens and give us much needed rest.

*Call to Worship:*

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: The music is playing, and God is calling.

People: **We have come to sing and dance with God.**

Pastor: The prayers are flowing, and the Spirit is moving.

People: **Breathe on us, breath of God.**

Pastor: Christ promises rest and renewal, when we come to him.

Unison: **We are here, trusting this sacred promise. Amen.**

*Centering & Prayer of Illumination:*

*(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

You have called us Lord, yet we pretend that we do not to hear you. You promised us rest, yet we doubt your truthfulness. Breathe on us, breath of understanding Holy Spirit, so that we renew our commitment to stay closer and to trust you wholeheartedly. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

*Reading from Scripture:*                    **Matthew 11:1-10; 16-19; 27-30**

*[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 5]*

*Message: COME TO ME... AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST!*

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed, Ecumenical Version (UMH 882)  
(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy universal church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Sacrament of the Holy Communion*

*In peace and love, in gratitude and faith, I invite you to have your bread  
(or chips, crackers, etc.) and juice (or water, wine, etc.) ready.*

*Let us come together to Christ’s table.*

*(Communion continues on the following page)*

*(we read together the texts in **BOLD**)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

O God, you are the creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image, to love and to be loved. You made a holy covenant with us and sent prophets to teach us your truth. When we turned away and were unfaithful, you kept faith with us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join in your praise, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Taking our form and flesh, Jesus came among us as a servant. He showed us the depth and power of your love. By his suffering, death, and resurrection you delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread. He gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your saving acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us. We proclaim again the mystery of faith, saying,

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Let them empower us to live in the world as faithful witnesses and fruitful disciples.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church. All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Receiving the Bread and Cup*

*Prayer after Receiving*

**O God, we give you our thanks and praise. You feed us by your grace. You are with us in all our journeys. Give us courage and faith to serve you in all we do. Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Enable us to be faithful and fruitful servants of the gospel and ministry to which you have called us. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**

*Come to Christ and offer your gifts, not as a burden, but as opportunity to give rest and renewal to those who yearn to know God's love. Thank you again for all the offerings and pledges you have sent in by mail.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

*(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

O God of gifts, we pray that you receive these gifts we now bring. Bless them to be gifts for your world. Through our giving renew others, that they, too, may know the comfort and rest of living in the arms of your compassion and your love. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction*

Stay firm, as people renewed by the love of God.  
Go forth to renew others with this very love.

Scripture Reading – July 5, 2020

**MATTHEW 11:1-10; 16-19; 27-30**

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*