

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 16, 2020 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship, including Scripture

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Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the Day:

God's compassion for all people, and the faith which persists.

Call to Worship:

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

Pastor: When hatred and division separate us...

People: ... **God's love binds us together.**

Pastor: When quarrels estrange us from one another...

People: ... **Christ's light shows us the way to reconciliation.**

Pastor: When we feel excluded and left out...

People: ... **the Spirit's peace eases our pain.**

Pastor: When all hope of fellowship seems lost,

Unison: **God's grace restores our hope. Come! Let us worship God, who makes us one.**

Centering and Prayer of Illumination:

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

Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone, gathers the outcast and the lost, heals the wounds of fear and distrust, make us a community of reconciliation that we may always embody your love and rejoice in your grace. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us your words of life, that our faith may increase and our hearts be made whole. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Reading from Scripture: **Matthew 15:21-28** **Romans 11:29-32**

(text of Scripture follows the service, beginning on page 2)

Message: **BE COMPASSIONATE TO ALL !**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

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

Almighty Father, receive the fruits of our labor and the dedication of our lives. Make them an acceptable sacrifice in union with Jesus Christ. We pray in his name's sake. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Stay firm with the power of the Holy Spirit. Serve your neighbor.
Love your enemy. Be merciful.

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Scripture Readings – August 16, 2020

first reading – MATTHEW 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

(readings continue on the next page)

second reading – **ROMANS 11:29-32**

... [T]he gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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Sebastopol United Methodist Church

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– Thank You for worshipping with us today –