

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 23, 2020 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the day:

We are to have new, changed lives in Christ and his church.

We have gifts to offer on God's behalf and for God's ministry.

Call to worship:

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

Pastor: You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

People: **We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One.**

Unison: **Let us worship God.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

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

God of revelation, nothing and no-one can reveal divine truth; only your Spirit can give that gift. Be in our breath and voice. Be in our ears and understand that, through the words that we are about to hear, shall your Word be heard, known, and be acted upon. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Romans 12:1-8** **Matthew 15:21-28**

[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 2]

Message: **LIVING SACRIFICE**

Pastoral Prayer

(worship continues on the next page)

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)

O Gracious God, thank you for the measure of faith you have given to each of us. Increase in us generosity, compassion, and courage so we continue to be your body in and for the world. With gratitude and thanksgiving, we pray in Jesus's way. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Though we are many, remember that we are one body in Christ and members of one another. May his spirit restores, empowers, bless and increases your joy and gladness, now and always.

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Scripture Readings – August 23, 2020

first reading -- **ROMANS 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God -- what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

(readings continue on the next page)

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

second reading – **MATTHEW 16:13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.