

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 30, 2020 – 13th 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:

Our call from God is to take up our cross and be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Call to worship:

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

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

People: **Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.**

Pastor: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord, rejoice.

Unison: **Look to the Lord and his strength, seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

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

O Lord, help us to be faithful in serving you and all those in need. Show us the way to take up our cross and resist temptations. Help us to remember that we were once held in bondage and oppressed. Liberate us from the consequences of poor choices. Enhance our ability to hear and listen to your words, leading to understanding your merciful grace, love and hope. In Jesus the Christ, we pray your way. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Romans 12:9-21** **Matthew 16:21-28**

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

Message: **FACTS OF LIFE**

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 Eternal God, we offer our prayers in gratitude for your amazing works in our world. May you continue to bless these offerings to further your mission. Bless the hands that sent them, so that they become blessings to others. We pray in the name of your son Jesus, the giver of all. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

God had sent us out to serve, to love, and to bless the world.

And here we say: **Yes we can.**

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Scripture Readings – August 30, 2020

first reading -- **ROMANS 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser

(readings continue on the next page)

than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

second reading – MATTHEW 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.