

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 6, 2020 – 14th 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:

We are promised by God to have God's presence with us, and that God will hear our prayers.

Call to Worship:

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

Pastor: Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints.

People: **Let Israel rejoice in their Maker, let the people of Zion be glad in their King.**

Pastor: Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.

People: **For the Lord takes delight in his people, he crowns the humble with salvation.**

Pastor: Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.

Unison: **This is the glory of all his saints. Praise the Lord. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

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

Help us, Lord, to celebrate your presence meaningfully. Help us to love each other even when we are not on our best behavior. Awaken our hearts to the dawning of a new day -- a day of justice and joy, a day of peace and repair, a day to refresh and reframe our faith. By the power of your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to hear your word of life, that we too may open our lives to serve your world in love. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture:

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

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

*Message: **HOPE THAT KEEPS COMING BACK!***

*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.

*(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."

Remembering your gracious acts, we offer ourselves to you in service and praise as we keep the feast that Christ prepares:

[lifting the bread] Bread of Heaven,

[lifting the cup] Cup of Salvation,

[lifting bread and cup] Resurrection and Life.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit among us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people; one in the body, one in the blood, one with Christ, one in mission, one in ministry; in this place, in every place, in this world, and in the world to come.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. [Lord's Prayer]

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)

Giving God, you bless us continuously with grace and love; we witness and experience the abundance of it. We come with offerings to share with your ministries, hence they are a portion of your gifts. May they be a testament to your love and be blessings to others and to us also, for the sake of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

May the Lord be gracious and bless you. May you live a life of praise forever in God's light. Stay hopeful and always, be prayerful.

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Scripture Readings – September 6, 2020

first reading -- **ROMANS 13:8-14**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

second reading – **MATTHEW 18:15-20**

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a

tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.