



August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING PRAYER²

God has lavished us with every perfect gift from above
and called us to living intimacy through the beloved one,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Unchanging God, you have blessed us forever through
the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Born again by your word of truth, let us live out your
love, doing your word, caring for the weak and
vulnerable in their distress, and ever pursuing your
reign of justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

 HYMN

Ⓟ+Ⓜ I'll Fly Away #2282

Ⓜ I Will Magnify the Lord

PSALM³ - Psalm 45:1–2, 7–10

My heart is bubbling over as I speak to the king.

You, O king, are the best man I know.

God has poured his grace all over you.

And you're not just good-looking; you are kind and good
and hate evil.

Wherever you go, you leave a fragrance of goodness.

Your palace is full of beautiful music. Listen to its beauty.

¹ Cover art downloaded from quotemaster.org; original artist unknown.

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³ *God's Word, My Voice, A Lectionary for Children*, Lynn Zill Briggs

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

NT READING - James 1:17-27

GOSPEL - Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

GOOD NEWS

🎵 HYMN - #402

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

CONFESSION & PARDON - UMH12

When the busyness of our lives erodes the intentions of
our hearts:

Merciful God, forgive us.

When our personal agendas take precedence over reaching
out to others:

Merciful God, forgive us.

When we keep putting off being more active “doers of the
word”:

Merciful God, forgive us.

When we resist change, knowing that our acting and
thinking

are limited by our prejudice and ignorance:

Merciful God, forgive us.

When we only half-listen to those who cry out to be fully
heard:

Merciful God, forgive us.

*Silence to contemplate these words and how they apply to
us personally and as a community of faith.*

Gracious and merciful God, forgive us for past faults and help us in the present and future to make ourselves more available to the hurting world that surrounds us—the world that begins on our doorsteps.

Equip us to be patient and compassionate listeners, proclaiming the gospel not in overbearing ways but sensitively and lovingly.

Strengthen us with the Holy Spirit to be fruitful and active witnesses to Jesus in all we do and say.

Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

OFFERING & PEACE

DOXOLOGY - #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

HOLY COMMUNION

POSTLUDE

CHARGE & BLESSING⁴

Listen to the life-giving words of the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord!

Look into God's perfect law of liberty and persevere in God's blessing!

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Live in God's love, caring for those in need from a heart filled and blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God has blessed you forever with every perfect gift from above, freeing you to rise and live in the embrace of God's love.

Go in peace.

Question for Reflection⁵

"My beloved speaks and says to me, 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away'" (Song 2:10). Song of Solomon portrays a vivid picture of romantic love in poetic form. Can you recall an experience of romantic love? In what ways does romantic love parallel our relationship with Christ? In what ways is it different?

Household Prayer: Morning

Beloved Savior, my heart overflows with your goodness.
The night has passed. The morning has come.
Your voice calls me to arise and come with you into this new day.
Let your love strengthen me to answer your call and follow you,
caring for those in need of your love. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Christ, Beloved One, I desired to keep pace with your steps of love today, but I found my mind wandering, my feet straying, my heart forgetting your love.
Gather me again in your gracious embrace and renew my strength as I rest in your love this night. Amen.

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People can donate money to Gibson City flood victims through Venmo to @gibsoncityfloodrelief, calling the Bank of Gibson City at 217-784-4233, or mailing a check payable to "City of Gibson Flood Relief" to 804 S. Sangamon Ave., Gibson City, IL 60936.

Those interested in supporting UMCOR's response in Haiti, Afghanistan, and elsewhere can make gifts online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450/> or by checks sent to Global Ministries/UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068, with Advance #982450 noted on the memo line.

For UMCOR U.S. disaster relief, including hurricane Ida, <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670> or by check with Advance #901670 on the memo line.

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (217 898 8161, rob@methodist.cc).