



Bellflower & Mt Vernon UMC

September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP²

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?

**We long to learn the ways of wisdom and
righteousness.**

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God!

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

PSALM - Psalm 1

 HYMN

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine #369

Close to Thee #407

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

NT READING - James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

GOSPEL - Mark 9:30-37

GOOD NEWS

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Posted on *Literature & Liturgy*. <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/> ,
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/09/call-to-worship-james-3-4.html>.

HYMN - #2158

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CONFESSION & PARDON³

**Our Creator and sustainer, we confess that we are not
always strong like the trees planted by the water's
edge. Sometimes we are weak and indecisive. When
the first big wind comes, we lean and break.**

**We plot revenge instead of letting you fight our battles.
By our silence and busyness, we let wickedness and
ugliness fester and flourish.**

**Today Lord, forgive us when we covet and lie and
when we get caught up in things that displease you.
Heal us, direct our paths, and be for us the peace we so
desperately crave.**

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

³ The Peace We So Desperately Crave, Cynthia A. Bond Hopson, *The Africana Worship Book for Year B*, (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 160.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of
your spirit, to give ourselves for others,**

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE⁴

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast, strong, and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there around you and above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

CHARGE & BLESSING

Go forth in peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

And the love of God,

And the communion of the Holy Spirit

Be with you all.

Amen.

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).

⁴ Don Besig and Nancy Price, *Go Now in Peace*