



Bellflower UMC

August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING² 🎵

Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.

Here I am to say that You're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me (2x)

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

² Tim Hughes. © 2000 Thankyou Music. CCLI 3266032 / 21891763

CALL TO WORSHIP³

Family of God, as we gather today, Jesus asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Messiah, the Son of the living God!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Holy Spirit asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Comforter, Advocate, and Sustainer!

Family of God, as we gather today, God the Father asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Creator, Provider, and Healer!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Triune God asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

You are Love that creates, saves, and enfolds us into the family of God! May we be instruments of Love in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:1-10

HYMN 🎵

378. Amazing Grace

PSALM

846. Psalm 124

HYMN 🎵

512. Stand By Me

CHILDREN’S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER - #895

RESPONSE 🎵

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline Thine ear to us,

and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

³ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.

CONFESSION & PARDON⁴

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our
hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words,
we are too often like Peter.

But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord, speaking of
our need for your saving presence in our lives.

**We look for you in all the wrong places,
God of the lost,
and wonder why we cannot find you.**

**We wander the corridors of power,
while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.**

**We sit at the head tables of the world,
while you are handing out soup to the hungry
at the kitchen's backdoor.**

**We applaud those who win the race,
while you are cheering on those in last place.**

**In forgiving us, God of new life,
you would transform our cold hearts
into those melted in service to others.**

**In granting us mercy,
you challenge us to think
of all those we have ignored.**

**In gifting us with grace,
you enable us to proclaim
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.**

Silence is kept.

It's not money, but our generosity with it;
it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves;
it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift,
which transforms us into God's children.

It is more than just how we think.

⁴ Thom Shuman. *Lectionary Liturgies*. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>.

**In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits
are transfigured and made new.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

OFFERING & PEACE

DOXOLOGY - #95 🎵🎵

HOLY COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH⁵

Jesus stands and asks:

“Who do you say I am?”

We join millions who have gone before
and say: “the Messiah”

Jesus stands in front of us

and tells us the realities of discipleship

We join millions who have gone before
in the challenges of living as disciples.

Jesus stands before us

and offers food and drink for the journey.

Fed and nourished,

we go out into the world to live and serve.

Jesus stands before us, shining in glory,

and will be with us to the end of the age.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE 🎵🎵

Go Now In Peace

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Ezekiel 5-8	Ezek. 9-12	Ezek. 13-15	Ezek. 16-17	Ezek. 18-19	Ezek. 20-21	Ezek. 22-23

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 (309-722-1500, rob@methodist.cc).

⁵ Rev. Gord. *Worship Offerings*. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>