



## Bellflower & Mt Vernon UMC

August 22, 2021

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

# GREETINGS<sup>1</sup>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>

In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to worship, to receive healing and hope. We come from the struggles and triumphs of the week, needing to feel the soothing presence of God.

Lord, be with us this day. Calm and soothe our souls.

Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a special place where we may gather to talk of your presence and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered to go forth to serve you. **AMEN.**

## PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

**The refreshing springs of God's love cleans and restore us.**

There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

**The least and the lost; the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God's house.**

Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

**Praise to God who heals and sends us forth to serve.**  
**AMEN.**

## HYMN

**Do, Lord, Remember Me #527**

**Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place #328**

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<sup>1</sup> Cover art and centerfold by John Stuart, [www.stushieart.com](http://www.stushieart.com).

<sup>2</sup> Several worship elements are from: Townley, N. C. *Worship connection: August 22, 2021*. Ministry Matters.

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/3010/worship-connection-august-22-2021>.

## PSALM<sup>3</sup> - Psalm 84

I'm always so happy when I'm at your house, God. I really want to be with you. My heart is full of joy knowing that you are my God, who is alive and close to me. Little birds are happy at your house where they are safe and can raise their little ones.

**My happy place is by your altar, O God.**

Because that's where I sing your praises along with all your people. People who walk in the right direction, on the right path, find their strength in you. Even people who are going through tough times find your house to be a place where they can fill up their empty places and find the courage to keep on walking.

**My happy place is by your altar, O God.**

One day with you in your house, God, is better than a thousand days sitting in my own room, or hanging out with people who are up to no good. You are both my sunshine and my shade, and you have plenty of grace and glory to go around. Those of us who choose to walk your path know we will never run out of grace and glory.

**My happy place is by your altar, O God.**

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

### NT READING - Ephesians 6:10-20

### GOSPEL - John 6:56-69

### SERMON

 **HYMN - Standing on the Promises #374**

What has God promised?

**To always be with us.**

What are we called to do?

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

**To shout and sing God's praises, God's faithful love for us.**

*All singing "Standing on the Promises" verse 1*

Life is tough these days.

**But God is with us.**

Storms and terrors threaten us at every turn. Who will protect us?

**God will protect us, as God promised.**

*All singing "Standing on the Promises", verse 2*

Who gives us the courage to stand in the face of tribulation?

**Jesus Christ has given the witness by the gift of his own life.**

What bond is there for us?

**It is the bond of Christ's own love, the gift of his own self for our lives.**

*All singing "Standing on the Promises", verse 3*

No matter what may threaten, God is with us.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

We will rest in the Savior and place our hope in him alone!

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

*All singing "Standing on the Promises", verse 4*

## **CONFESSION<sup>4</sup>**

**Watchful God, you know our plight.**

**Offended, we have not believed your words.**

**Complaining, we have betrayed your love.**

**We are weak, estranged, wandering, and lost.**

**Seeking to stand in our own strength, we fall.**

**Strangers to your holiness, we wander.**

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**Defenseless against evil within and without,  
we are lost.**

**Shine your light in our darkness,  
and guide us back to our place in you. Amen.**

## **PARDON**

Even though we doubt and question, God's love is poured  
on us, in us, and through us to others.

Rest assured in God's presence and love for you, that will  
never fail or abandon you.

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 & BLESSING**

God is always with you. Even when times get difficult and  
the way is not clear, God is truly by your side. Rest in  
God's strength and love. Serve God with joy.

Go in peace.

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## Question for Reflection<sup>5</sup>

“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name . . . and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you” (1 Kgs. 8:41–43). Are there people of other nationalities, ethnic groups, or faith traditions in your workplace, neighborhood, community, or congregation? What are some ways in which you and your congregation can express the welcome of God to those who are different from you?

### Household Prayer: Morning

Lord God, my sun and shield, a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Let the favor of your presence strengthen me and accompany me everywhere I go today. Prepare me to be a sanctuary, that your light and love may radiate through me. Through Christ my Lord. Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

Lord God my strength, your Spirit never tires; your love never fails. I bring you my struggles, stresses, questions, and worries of this day. Where else can I go? You have the words of eternal life. Let your promises sustain my soul and comfort my heart as I rest in you, through Christ my Lord. 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](mailto:rob@methodist.cc)).

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