

## Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

### **MEDITATION PRAYER**

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. Whosoever despises the word shall be destroyed, but he that fears the commandment shall be rewarded." (Proverbs 13:12-13)

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: Come let us sit in humility with the Lord, my people; let us sing of his goodness and steadfast love towards those whom he dearly loves.

**C: I am the righteousness of God in Christ! He has called me precious, and I am worthy to be counted as one of his own!**

P: You have well-spoken, dear children of the Most High God! It is wonderful to know who you are and why you are here.

**C: We are the righteousness of God in Christ, and today, we join in unison in proclaiming God as the arbiter and sustainer of our lives.**

P: Indeed, you are wise and will hear and depart from evil; the simple inherit folly, but the prudent will be crowned with knowledge.

**C: Henceforth, we will no longer be tossed to and from like a sheep without a shepherd. We are the Lord's anointed, and we will grow in faith speaking the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**ALL: Blessed be the name of God forever! He knows what is in the darkness because the light came from him, dwells within him, and becomes him! Amen.**

**HYMN: #12 (Black Hymnal) "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"**

#### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus sat and watched the people go by. As an avid people watcher, he looked at his flawless creation while appearing incognito to many who passed by. As he sat in humility, Jesus was ever so caring and was always ready to strike a conversation with whoever wanted to talk and reason. Lord, we pray that during this summertime, we, too, can take a little time to sit down and smile at people going along their busy lives. May we find some precious moments to listen to the birds singing and see busy ants in the garden in a race to find food to take back to their nests. We call on your Holy Spirit to awaken our senses to the joy of life and the beauty that awaits us in heavenly

places. Shine on us, dear Jesus, shine on us today and forever. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Kings 5:8-15**

**SERMON:** 'Simple Instruction, Complicated Responses' (by Minister Miriam Theodore)

**COMMUNION HYMN: #288 (Red Hymnal) "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

#### **SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

With grateful hearts, we praise you, O God, for your great goodness in the gift of Christ. Through sacred memory, Christ has come to us and fed us at this table. Strengthen us by your grace to fellowship with Christ each day. Stir us to share Christ's cross in daily sacrificial service. Amen.

#### **OFFERTORY INVITATION: Philippians 2:3-8**

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than ourselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, took upon him the form of a servant, and he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even his death on the cross."

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

#### **A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER**

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**CLOSING HYMN: #423 (Red Hymnal) "Great Is Your Faithfulness"**

#### **BENEDICTION:POSTLUDE:**