

Banning United Methodist Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

CENTERING WORDS

O God, You are our strength and our salvation. You uphold and save us. We offer You our very lives.

PRELUDE

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

We ask that you please sign the attendance book, then pass it to the middle aisle. If you are here this morning as a guest, please include your address and phone number, so that we can reach out to you. **If this is your first time visiting and would like to introduce yourself, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.**

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing and rejoice! The Lord reaches out to you with healing love!

P: The Lord is our strength and our power!

L: Dance before the Lord, a dance of joy and hope!

P: The Lord brings us joy and lifts us up in hope.

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

P: Let us celebrate the good news God brings to us each day. AMEN.

†OPENING HYMN

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

UMH #127

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

OPENING PRAYER

When we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life, enter our hearts with Your redeeming love, O Christ. When our fears overtake us and we cannot find our way, give us direction that we might faithfully serve You all our days, singing Your praises! AMEN.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:15-21 NRSV

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

GOSPEL READING

Pastor Doug

Matthew 18:21-35 NRSV

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMONIC HYMN

"Sweet Songs"

Summer Ensemble

SERMON

"Forgiveness Is Not An Option"

Pastor Doug

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE

Children in Prayer

(After all slides: In Your mercy, **Lord, hear our prayer**)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

†DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, You have blessed our lives in so many ways. In gratitude for all these blessings and in confidence that our gifts will be used for ministries of peace and hope, we offer these gifts. AMEN.

†CLOSING HYMN

"O How I Love Jesus"

UMH #170

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free; it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.

[Refrain]

3. It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe; who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.

[Refrain]

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE