



Central United Methodist Church – at 10:00 am

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 5th, 2021

Preaching – Dave Dextraze: Certified Lay Minister

Liturgist: Linda Merritt

Musician: Susan Ramsay

Centering Music:

Greetings and Announcements

Opening Prayer/ Call to Worship

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers
as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.
Prayers of the People, concluding with:
**Hear our prayers, God of power,
and through the ministry of your Son
free us from the grip of the tomb,
that we may desire you as the fullness of life
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.**

Responsive Reading: (Leader reads first. Congregation reads the bold type.)

Psalm 34:15-22

L: 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

P: 34:16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

L: 34:17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

P: 34:18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

L: 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all.

P: 34:20 He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

L: 34:21 Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

P: 34:22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Hymn: UMH 640 "Take Our Bread"

Communion Liturgy: The Sacrament of Holy Communion (Please follow the insert)

Children's Message:

Linda Merritt

This morning's Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

24:1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

24:2a And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

24:14 "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve

the LORD.

24:15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

24:16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

24:17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed;

24:18 and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

This morning's Gospel Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20 (please stand)

6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

6:12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

6:14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

6:15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

6:16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

6:17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

6:19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

"Hymn: UMH 140 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Sermon: "Strength and Protection in Faith"

God Moments (Joys and Concerns)

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music: TFWS 2158 " Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Tithes and Offerings:

Blessing: May God in heaven strengthen our armor as we become stronger in the faith day by day, so we may fend off the power of the evil one. **AMEN.**

Closing Hymn: UMH 666 "Shalom to You"

Ministry Team

Rev. Neil (Sandy) Sweet, Coordinating Pastor, Elder sandypadre@aol.com

Ann Burnham, Certified Lay Minister Tedann84@verizon.net

Dave Dextraze, Certified Lay Minister Ddextraze1@comcast.net

Susan Scott, Certified Lay Speaker susiscott@aol.com

Paul Battistini, Certified Lay Minister, Team Leader & Emergency Pastoral Care:
cell: (774) 766-2390 paul_batt@hotmail.com

OFFICE:

14 School Street, Middleboro, Ma 02346

Email: middleboromethodists@verizon.net

Website: middleboroumc.com Church

FB page: www.facebook.com/MiddleboroMethodist

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UNBOLD: Leader

BOLD: Liturgist

INVITATION.

The United Methodists Church practices an open table for communion, meaning all at worship are invited to partake. The church proclaims that the table of Holy Communion is Christ's table. The table is open to anyone who accepts Christ's love and seeks to lead a new life of peace and love

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

Take your cups and join me in remembrance of our Lord and Savior.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God
now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, please join me in the Lord's Prayer, let us pray:

**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.**