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**We are an Inclusive Faith Community. All Are Welcomed and All Really Means ALL!**

Communion Sunday, August 6th 2023 10am

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



*“The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do” – Steve Jobs*

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**PRELUDE**

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **Since Jesus Came into My Heart (Red Hymnal- 639)**

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought  
Since Jesus came into my heart!  
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,  
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

*Refrain:  
Since Jesus came into my heart,  
Since Jesus came into my heart,  
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,  
Since Jesus came into my heart.*

*I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray,  
Since Jesus came into my heart!  
And my sins which were many are all washed away,  
Since Jesus came into my heart! [Refrain]*

*I shall go there to dwell in that city, I know,  
Since Jesus came into my heart!  
And I'm happy, so happy, as onward I go,  
Since Jesus came into my heart! [Refrain]*

**Our Church’s Mission:**

Welcome all into a loving, inclusive faith community,

Seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus,

Building on our own rich history, actively exploring beliefs and assumptions, and Promoting justice, peace and spiritual growth.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing aloud to God our strength!

**Many: Sing the story of our faith.**

One**:** Sing of God’s providential care:

**Many: water in the desert, honey from a rock.**

One: Sing of God’s sorrow at our wandering!

**Many: Sing of God’s love that calls us anew.**

One: Sing aloud to God our strength.

**All: Let us Worship and Praise God who has given us a song in our hearts.**

**Hebrew Reading:** **Isaiah 55:1-5**

*Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.  
  
4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.*

**Epistle Reading: Romans 12:1-10**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. **2**Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**3**For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4**For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, **5**so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. **6**We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; **7**ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; **8**the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. **9**Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; **10**love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Reader: This is the word of God, to the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

INVOCATION

Worship & Praise through Music

Passing the Peace of Christ

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (Singing) **(Green Hymnal-740)**

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 **(Debts),** as we forgive those who trespass against us **(Debtors).** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Announcements

Offering:

Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above the heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost** *(Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost) Amen*

Sermonic Hymn: **Glory to His Name (Red Hymnal-344) Verses 1- 4**

***Down at the cross where my Savior died,  
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to his name!***

***Refrain:  
Glory to his name,  
Glory to his name;  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to his name!***

***I am so wondrously saved from sin,  
Jesus so sweetly abides within;  
There at the cross where he took me in;  
Glory to his name! [Refrain]***

***Oh, precious fountain that saves from sin,  
I am so glad I have entered in;  
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean;  
Glory to his name! [Refrain]***

***Come to this fountain so rich and sweet,  
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior’s feet;  
Plunge in today, and be made complete;  
Glory to his name! [Refrain]***

MESSAGE: Grace that Overflows – Romans 12:11-21



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD:  **What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Green Hymnal-473)**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you wilt find a solace there.

Prayers of the People

Communion Hymn: **Near the Cross (Green Hymnal- 479)**

*Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.*

*Refrain:  
In the cross, in the cross  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my ransomed soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star  
Shed His beams around me. [Refrain]*

*Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever;  
Till I reach the golden strand,  
Just beyond the river. [Refrain]*

Deacon:  Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**People:  In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

Elder: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also, with you.

Elder: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

Elder: Let us give thanks to God.

**People:** It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

**Ruth:**

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage in the peace of your abiding presence, the Holy Spirit in our midst.

We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice.  With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you

**All:  Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.** **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!  Hosanna in the highest!**

**Rev: Words of Remembrance and Sharing of the Lords Table**

We come to this table to remember how you became human through your son Jesus. Who on the night he was forsaken by some of His beloveds, shared food and wine with all those he loved.

There is one loaf, and we, who are many, are one body. We partake of the one loaf. From it we draw sustenance and life. The loaf connects us to the past, the present and the future. The loaf is the bread of the earth and the bread of heaven. Connecting us to the earth and sky and to each other.

The bread which we break is also our symbol of the body of Christ broken and given to us.

We also drink from the cup. It is the cup of life- sorrow and joy shared each of us in our heart and also shared by our Savior Jesus.

He took bread, the symbol of life, broke it and shared it with them saying this is my body broken for you.

And he took a cup of wine, symbol of celebration and joy, shared it with them saying this is my life poured out for you.

We come here to do the same.

Come, Fresh Wind. Come, Holy Spirit  
Move over these symbols of life and celebration,   
Let this bread be nourishing to our spirits. Let this wine quench our thirsty souls, let these symbols be your body and blood for us.

BENEDICTION: “At the Cross” **(Green Hymnal 258)**

*At the cross, at the cross where  
  I first saw the light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
  And now I am happy all the day!*

POSTLUDE

The Three-Minute Suggestion:

Please spend the first three minutes with someone who is relatively new to our church family, or new to you. Get to know them like a friend might! THEN take some time with longtime friends. Thanks!

WORSHIP CONTINUES IN FELLOWSHIP:

*Join for Coffee and Connections in the Connections Café sponsored by Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.*

*MONDAY: 8/7*

*AA Group -- 6:30pm*

*TUESDAY: 8/8*

*Journey Band Practice – 5:45pm*

*AA Living Sober – 7:30pm*

*WEDNESDAY: 8/9*

*Elder’s Monthly Meeting – 6pm*

*Consistory Monthly Meeting – 7pm*

*AA - 8pm*

*THURSDAY: 8/10*

*AA Meeting – 7:30pm*

*FRIDAY: 8/11*

*AA Meeting (Men’s) – 7:30pm*

*Saturday: 8/12*

*Bring a friend with you next Sunday!*

*Take them out to lunch! Have a better day!*

*If you would like to schedule time with Rev either in-person or zoom, please contact Mike via email to be placed on his calendar. office@wentzsucc.org*

*LOOKING AHEAD:*

*September:*

*9/3 – Virtual Labor Day Weekend Worship Service*

*9/9- Rev’s Pastoral Installation 4pm*

Wentz’s UCC

Open & Affirming Statement:

We are Wentz’s United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, where your identity and being are cherished. We respectfully welcome all without exception, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and family structures. Together we create an open and active community. Everyone is invited to walk with us in our journey. You are welcome here. Whomever, wherever, at all times.

You. Are. Simply. Welcomed.

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Wentz’s United Church of Christ

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Donna Mower – Guild President

June Wright- Organist

Laura McLennan and Jim O’Donnell- Music Dept

Matt MacDonald- Technology