



**Order of Worship
September 12, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 AM**

*10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

He Shall Be Their Shepherd

Stairs

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Call to Worship

Brenda Krens

L: When we are lonely and feeling lost . . .

P: Jesus calls us and brings us hope and peace.

L: When we are angry and frustrated . . .

P: Jesus heals our wounds and soothes our tempers.

L: When we are sorrowful and broken . . .

P: Jesus binds up our wounds with his healing love.

L: Come, let us worship the one who cares so abundantly for us.

Opening Prayer

Brenda Krens

For the healing love you have offered to us; for the patience you have with us; for your presence that will never fail, we give you thanks, O Lord. Bring our hearts and spirits to you that we may grow in our faith and service to you by serving others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Hymn (See last page)

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

FWS 2146

Children's Message

Pastor Debra

Ministry of Music

Lord, Here Am I

Shari Laraway

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Pastor Debra

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us now to listen well. Open our ears to your truth. Humble us in your presence, God, so nothing will stand in the way of what you will say to us today. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Romans 5:1-5 (NRSV)

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Sermon

Pastor Debra

The Apostles' Creed

Brenda Krens

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Brenda Krens

**Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication- All Praying*

Brenda Krens

Eternal God, you bless us with abundant gifts. Receive the tokens of our gratitude and use them to fulfill your will. May the gifts we give support Christ's work and ministry in this world that we may not be just hearers of your word, but also doers. Amen.

Hymn (See last page)

Heal Me Hands of Jesus

UMH 262

A Time for Healing and Hope

Pastor Debra

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you. Let us pray.

No one is far from you, O God. We come together in joy – mindful of the burdens we carry, the hurts and sorrows we have. We come together in gladness – never forgetting your love. We come together with praise – for each other and those who assist us on this journey. No one is far from you, O God, and we call upon your power in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 142 (NRSV) Read Responsively

Brenda Krens

With my voice I cry to the Lord;

with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.

² I pour out my complaint before him;

I tell my trouble before him.

³ When my spirit is faint,

you know my way.

You, O Lord, are my refuge.

In the path where I walk

they have hidden a trap for me.

⁴ Look on my right hand and see—

there is no one who takes notice of me;

no refuge remains to me;

no one cares for me.

You, O Lord, are my refuge.

⁵ I cry to you, O Lord;

I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."

⁶ Give heed to my cry,
for I am brought very low.
Save me from my persecutors,
for they are too strong for me.
You, O Lord, are my refuge.

⁷ Bring me out of prison,
so that I may give thanks to your name.
The righteous will surround me,
for you will deal bountifully with me.
You, O Lord, are my refuge.

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor Debra

Lord Jesus, we come to you today and thank you for the privilege of praying for others. We've been the recipient of others' prayers so often, we understand how powerful intercessory prayer can be. We ask you first to cleanse our hearts and show us if there is any unconfessed sin in our own lives so that our prayers for others will not be hindered. We thank you that through your name, we can come boldly before you and pray with confidence, according to your will and know that you hear me.

A Moment of Silent Prayer

We lift up those in our neighborhoods, in our town, and in our church. Begin with those who follow you, and help them influence others for good. Let them be salt and light, pointing others to you. Deepen their love for you and for the people around them. Guard them from hypocrisy or from giving in to temptations that could harm the cause of Christ. Raise up leaders who will serve you faithfully at all costs. Turn the hearts of parents toward their children, and families toward you. Help them to exemplify your values, and make them bold in their faith. Strengthen our own families, and those closest to us, Lord. May our love for you help us to love and forgive others and make a difference in our world.

A Moment of Silent Prayer

We pray for teachers, for students, and for all those in authority and leadership, both locally and throughout the world. Give them your mind, and surround them with leaders who will exercise integrity and work for justice, mercy, and peace. Help them to esteem you, not dismiss you. Send a revival upon us, O Lord.

A Moment of Silent Prayer

We pray for the lost, the hurting, the lonely, the sick, the bereaved, and those who are imprisoned—behind both visible and invisible walls. Send your comfort, your peace, and your calming presence to those who are without hope. Protect the defenseless, and hold them close to your heart. We pray for laborers to tell the good news of Jesus to people

around our world. And Jesus, our heart cries out for persecuted believers, too. Make them brave, and give them your powerful protection. We pray for an end to this COVID pandemic, for those whose lives have been turned upside down by fire, flood, earthquake, or war; for the hungry, the thirsty, the poor, the downtrodden.

We pray for our nation and our world, for the Church of Jesus Christ, and for ourselves.

A Moment of Silent Prayer

Lord of Mercy, Prince of Peace, September 11 does not pass in the calendar without our remembering. We remember images of death and destruction. Images that human eyes were never meant to see. We remember words our ears were never meant to hear, the tender last words of husbands and wives who would never embrace again.

We imagine the feeling of emptiness in the arms of children who at the end of the day could not find mom or dad for their welcome home hug. We remember our own feelings of emptiness as our sense of security, as our own confidence in the predictable order of life and work, was radically shaken.

We remember the heroism of the many that lost their lives in saving others. We remember all those who suffered and died, we grieve for them still, friends and strangers alike, along with their families and friends.

And it is right that it should not pass from our memory. But today and in this prayer, along with our remembrance of profound loss, it also seems right that we give voice to our deep longing for peace, and with this prayer, commit ourselves to those actions that will draw us closer to our most ancient and most holy desire, peace among all God's children.

Dona nobis pacem. Lord, grant us peace.

A Moment of Silent Prayer

So many thoughts and concerns, Jesus, but you are adequate for every need. Your name is powerful, and your power is great. It is in your name that we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying...

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.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

You are invited to come to the altar for prayer as this hymn is sung. If you wish for Pastor Debra to pray with you, please let her know.

Benediction

Pastor Debra

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Choral Response No. 666

Shalom to You

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude

Lift High Your Heads

Evangelica

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

*Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.*

*"Let not your heart be troubled,"
his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth
but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,*

*and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.*

*Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
when song give place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him,
from care he sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.*

HEAL ME HANDS OF JESUS

*Heal me, hands of Jesus,
and search out all my pain;
restore my hope, remove my fear,
and bring me peace again.*

*Cleanse me, blood of Jesus,
take bitterness away;
let me forgive as one forgiven
and bring me peace today.*

*Know me, mind of Jesus,
and show me all my sin;
dispel the memories of guilt
and bring me peace within.*

*Fill me, joy of Jesus;
anxiety shall cease,
and heaven's serenity be mine,
for Jesus brings me peace!*

MY HOPE IS BUILT

*My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain:

*On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

(Refrain)

*His oath, his covenant, his blood
supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.*

(Refrain)

*When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!*

(Refrain)