



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Ave. West Bend WI 53095

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost ~ July, 18, 2021~

Mirrors & Windows



Have you found the purpose that God has for your life? He wants you to be happy, healthy, and prosperous; living in the joy of salvation in your everyday life. Is this possible? Yes.

Isaiah 40:31 says. “But those who trust in the Eternal One will regain their strength. They will soar on wings as eagles. They will run—never winded, never weary. They will walk—never tired, never faint.

I think of great deal our mirrors and our

If you look out a world outside of standing; witnessing

passes through the frame. Looking in to a mirror though, all see is yourself.

We typically see sin always through a window; we end up both judgmental and self-centered. We become crusaders and passionate advocates for ourselves. Decidedly, not Jesus-



of it has to do with windows.

window, you see the where you’re what happens to as it you’ll ever be able to

living lives that are against the crowd, like.

What if we decided to see sin in the mirror, and need out the window? What if we woke-up every day, with the agenda to heal outside, and fix inside, instead of the other way around?

What if our prayers were to be internally renovated, and externally motivated?

May we strive to see and reflect Jesus with a clarity that changes everything, and everyone.

**Kelly Louk, Liturgist
Soloist**

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

“No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You're Welcome Here” As you participate with heart and/or voice, the words will be displayed on the screen for your convenience.

***Note: L: denotes worship Leader ~ P: denotes People**

~GATHERING GOD’S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE:

~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: Lord of light and life, we come to you this Sabbath in celebration of the witness of your Son Jesus Christ. Open our hearts, our spirits, and our lives to listen to His words for us. We come to worship you in spirit and truth. Come! All are welcome!

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-338-8535; Email pastor@faumc.org

~5th AVE. JUNCTION - WHERE FAITH AND FAMILY COME TOGETHER~

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC:

***CALLED TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)**

L: Pentecost is a sincere time for reflection.

P: Mirrors, windows, puddles after the rain, we see ourselves in them, reflected and reflecting.

L: Pentecost begins a time to set aside winning and losing.

P: God is not a contestant, God is not an umpire, God is not a prize to be won.

L: Pentecost begins, a time to look within ourselves.

P: God lives within us, and we seek within to hear the whisper of God's breathing of the Holy Spirit through us as She moves us to action; while we gather to quiet ourselves in worship.

*** PRAYING IN COMMUNITY: (Unison)**

One: The Lord be with you. Let us pray together.

All: Beloved Creator, your bow is set not only in the sky, but in our lives. Red for love, orange flowering, yellow for school buses and raincoats and things needing to be seen, green for the food the Earth gives us, blue for the sweet water, purple for the silent blessing of night. There are other meanings for those colors, meanings that create belonging, that bring justice, that proclaim truth. All these are from You, every covenant made is with You, and the power proclaimed in the sky is Your might. We praise and glorify You this day and all days. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

L: Even though we doubt God's faithfulness to us, yet God is steadfast in God's love for each one of us. Receive that love in your hearts this day. Know that you are healed and forgiven in God's sight. **All: Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN:**

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

UMH 382

~WE PROCLAIM~

Colossians 1:15-20 The Voice (VOICE)

He is the exact image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation, the eternal. It was by Him that everything was created: the heavens, the earth, all things within and upon them, all things seen and unseen, thrones and dominions, spiritual powers and authorities. Every detail was crafted through His design, by His own hands, and for His purposes. He has always been! It is His hand that holds everything together. He is the head of this body, the church. He is the beginning, the first of those to be reborn from the dead, so that in every aspect, at every view, in everything—He is first. God was pleased that all His fullness should forever dwell in the Son who, as predetermined by God, bled peace into the world by His death on the cross as God's means of reconciling to Himself the whole creation—all things in heaven and all things on earth.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **P: Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON:

A Matter of the Heart - "Mirror & Window People"

Pastor Clarissa

~SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER~

L: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: We adore You, Most Holy Lord, Jesus Christ, here and in all the churches of the whole world, and we bless You because by Your Cross You have redeemed the world.

All: Have mercy on us.

L: O Jesus, present in this Holy Sacrament, teach all nations to serve you with a willing heart, knowing that to serve God is to reign. May you Sacrament, O Jesus, be light to the mind, strength to the will, joy to the heart. May it be strength to the weak, comfort for the suffering, the wayfaring bread of salvation for the dying, and for all, the pledge of the future glory.

All: It is our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord, our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created the heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and preserve us by your wisdom. You have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for humanity and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God.

L: With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. 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!

Pastor: Since it was the will of God's only-begotten Son that human beings should share in His Divinity, He assumed our nature in order that by becoming Human He might make humans co-creators with God. Moreover, when He took our flesh, He dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation.

He offered His Body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation. He shed His Blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin.

But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us forever, He left His Body as food and His Blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine. O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ Himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this?

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me."

In the same manner also, he took the cup when they had supped, saying, "this cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the world.

In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices.

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into him Christ our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that thy whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into thy kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: We come to You dear Lord, with the Apostles saying: increase our faith. Give us a strong and lively faith in the mystery of Your real presence in the midst of us. Give us the splendid faith of the centurion, which drew from You such praise. Give us the faith of the beloved disciple, to know You in the dark and say: it is the Lord. Give us the faith of Martha to confess: You art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Give us the faith of Mary Magdalene to fall at Your feet crying: Teacher, Master. Give us the faith of Your saints, to whom Holy Communion is celebrated as Heaven begun here on earth. In every Holy Communion increase our faith; for with faith, love, humility, and reverence and all good will come to our souls. Precious Lord increase our faith. Amen.

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

Pastor: God of all goodness; **People:** hear our prayer.

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior, who has taught us to pray: **Lord's Prayer on screen.**

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

DOXOLOGY:

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 95

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!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)**

All: Holy God, you love us so deeply that you pursue us relentlessly. You sent your son Jesus into the world that we who were far off would be brought near to you by his blood. We offer our gifts to you, knowing we can never outgive you, never balance the equation. You don't desire balance, no quid-pro-quo, only that we find the peace you desire for us, whose foundation is in your word and whose cornerstone is Christ alone. In that holy name, we pray. Amen. (Ephesians 2:11-22)

***CLOSING HYMN:**

“Bind Us Together”

TFWS 2226

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

*L: Now that you have welcomed Jesus Christ into your lives, go forth and continue to journey with Him. Allow Him to shape your lives. Let your roots grow down deep into Him, and let Him build you up on a firm foundation. Be strong in the faith—just as you were taught—and let your lives spill over with thanksgiving.

Pastor: May God grant You spiritual wisdom and understanding so that you may be able to see things from a spiritual point of view, and so that Your lives may be worthy of God, and pleasing to Him. And may you bear fruit in all that you do, and continue to grow in your understanding of who God is. And may God give you the strength you need to endure whatever comes with patience and even joy, always giving thanks to God who, through Jesus Christ, has given you new life. And may the extravagant love of God, the amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the intimate presence of the Holy spirit be with you all.

POSTLUDE:

~5th AVE. JUNCTION - WHERE FAITH AND FAMILY COME TOGETHER~
THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE ~ Colossians 1:11-20

Think about this: “For by him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible...” (1:16).

This Bible verse tells us that God made “all things.” We give thanks for the things we can see – our food, our friends and family, our homes, and for the beauty of the world. The rivers, mountains, trees, flowers, and animals of the natural world are just a few of the wonderful gifts from God. You could make a long, long list of the things we see and give thanks for in our world.

We don’t often think about those invisible things that are so important to our lives. Think about the way our bodies are so perfectly made and balanced. There are many invisible things that occur within our bodies.

Think about the electrical signals carried to and from your brain all the time – those signals that make all sorts of things happen – walking, talking, seeing, feeling...

Think about the tiny blood cells that travel through your body and carry oxygen so important to our health.

Think about the tiny bones inside your ear that allow you to hear, or the cells in your eyes that allow you to see light and color.

Think about the muscles under the skin of your face which allow you to smile.

In addition to the things, we have talked about, there are hormones and other substances in your body that do all sorts of necessary things.

There are many invisible things that occur within our bodies, but also all around us in the world. Let’s remember to give thanks for the things we can see and the things we cannot see: “things visible and things invisible.”

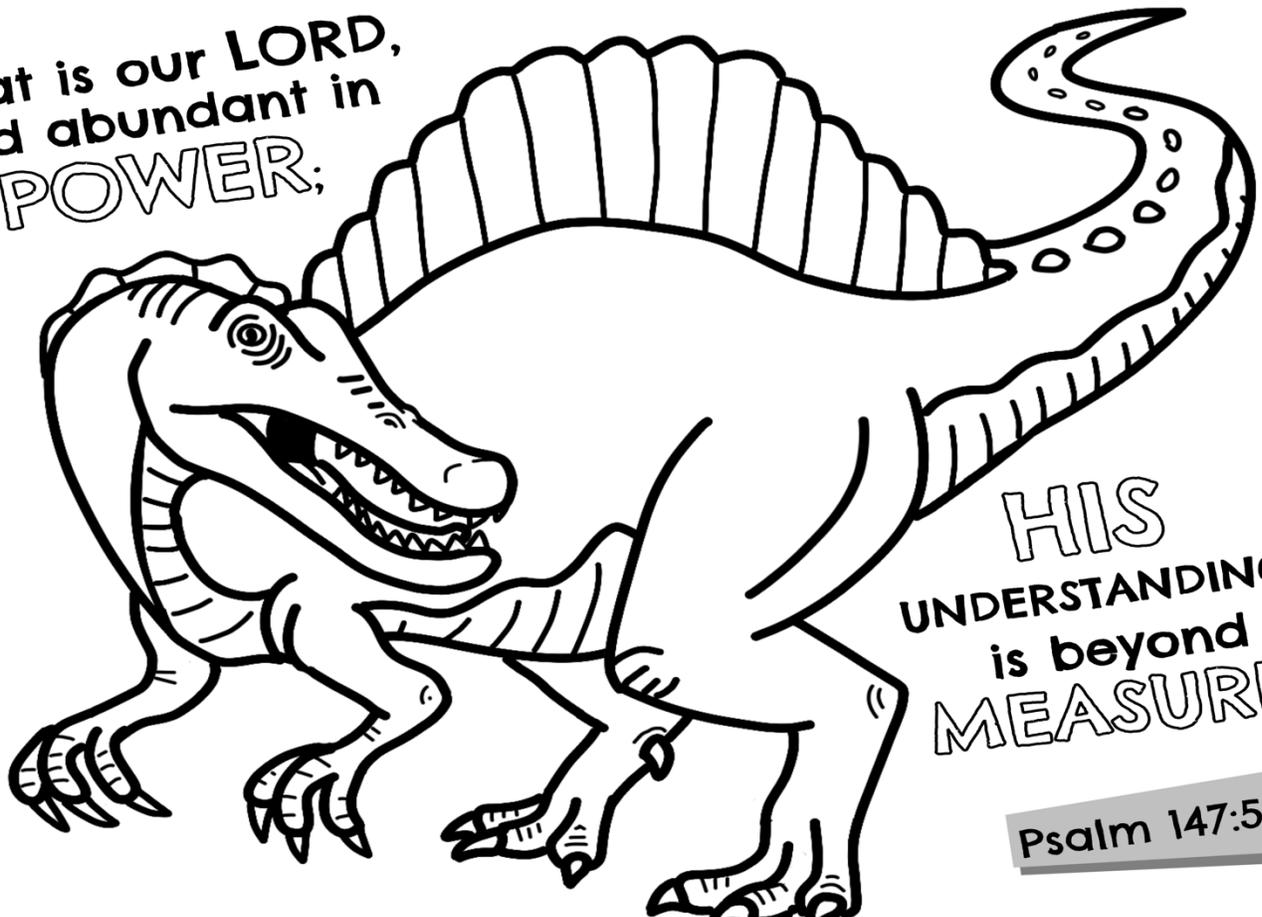
Dear Father, we have not seen you. We do not even know what it might mean to see you. But you have shown us Jesus, and because we have seen him, we have seen you. Thank you for him who is the image of you, the invisible God. Thank you for creating all things through him who is the first-born of all creation. Help us grasp what it means that everything - things in heaven, things on earth, things visible, things invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, all matter and all energy - was created by him who was before all things, and that all these things hold together through him. In Jesus' hallowed name I ask. Amen.

For by him ALL things were
CREATED
in HEAVEN and on EARTH...
ALL things were CREATED

through
HIM and
for **HIM**.

Colossians 1:16

Great is our LORD,
and abundant in
POWER;



HIS
UNDERSTANDING
is beyond
MEASURE.

Psalms 147:5