

# **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 18, 2021 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

## **The Gathering**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Gathering Around the Word**

HYMN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers,  
**we gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.**  
Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the journey,  
**each of us is seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.**  
Builders of bridges in fractured communities,  
those who stand on either side of walls of fear,  
**the Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Do we really want God to dwell within us, or are we only willing to 'rent out' space for a brief visit? Our actions, our words, our silence, our fears all show the presence, or absence, of God in our lives. Let us empty ourselves of all which burdens us, and welcome the One who lives with us forever. Please join me as we pray,

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

**Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst.**

**Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior.**

*Silence is kept*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

**God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER ["Sins"]

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### **The Word**

SCRIPTURE  
SERMON

Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34; 53-56  
"One Family."

### **Responding to the Word**

## OUR OFFERING TO GOD

Please mail any offering or tithe to the following address:

**Fleming Road UCC**  
Attn: Ron Alcock  
691 Fleming Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45231

## Prayer of Dedication/Offering

*Because you have compassion on us, Steadfast Love, you do not hold anything back, but fill us with your good gifts. May we share from our abundance, as well as from our need, so our offerings might be an enduring witness to your hope, your peace, and your healing for all. Amen.*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### **Sending the Word**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Homework: What does it mean when to be one humanity? How do we build bridges relationally with people who have different opinions? How do we listen to others with different opinions without judging them? How do we hear the voice of God in the midst of division?*