St. Mary's United Church of Christ

1441 E. Mayberry Rd.
Westminster, MD 21158

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020

Prelude – Reflection (Arr. Wagner)

The mountains shall bring peace to the people,
and the little hills, by righteousness. (Psalm 72:3)

Call to Worship

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen!
Around our laptops, televisions, and phones; in our living rooms, our kitchens, our bedrooms, and our porches; wherever we are, we claim this gathering as sacred space.
We have come because we need to hear again the good news of God's mercy and love for us and for all people.
We are like the vine God planted, watered, and protected.
We have come to the quiet to hear the Spirit whisper her invitation to a just, peaceful, and abundant life.
We have come to pray
and listen intently for the Word to speak to our hearts.
And so - let us attend!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn – This Is the Day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the
Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be
glad in it, and be glad in it. This the day that the
Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Sing twice.

Prayer of Reconciliation

We confess our sin to you, Almighty Father, friend of the poor.
For not loving You with all our heart, O God;
For not loving our neighbor in the same way;
For not loving You with all our soul, O God;
For not loving our neighbor in the same way;

For not loving You with all our mind, O God;
For not loving our neighbor in the same way;
For not loving You with all our strength, O God;
For not loving You in the same way.
Forgive us, and show us Your kindness, that we might do the same.

Assurance of Pardon
Jesus knows our every weakness, and loves us still, and every day we awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Prayer of the Day
To You, O God, we lift up our souls. To You we offer our praise and prayer, our worship and thanksgiving, even our very lives. Make Your ways known to us. Show us the path on which we should walk. Lead us in Your truth and teach us. For You alone are the God who saves, the God in whom we trust; and the One on whom we wait. Amen.

Readings
New Testament: Philippians 2:1-13

Psalm: 25:1-9
To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Gloria Patri
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end, Amen, Amen!

Sermon – *Who's the Boss?*

Hymn – Wonderful Words of Life
Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.
Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty;
beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,
beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all, wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life.
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven;
beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,
beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.
Jesus, only Savor, sanctify forever;
beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful fords of life,
beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Pastoral Prayer

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.
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory Prayer
Your love, O God, is expressed through people like us:
as we share our wealth in simplicity and generosity;
as we share wholeness in care and healing
of the sick and broken;
as we share hospitality by being truly present
to the lonely, the imprisoned and the marginalised;
as we share peace in kindness, listening and acceptance
with those who challenge us, confront us and threaten us.
As you have loved us in incarnate action, O God,
may we learn to be little incarnations
through whom your love is expressed and experienced
in action. Amen.

Hymn – Just a Closer Walk with Thee
I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Refrain
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,

daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Refrain
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

Refrain
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude – How Great Thou Art (Traditional Swedish Melody Arr. Wagner)

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Collect for the Week of September 20

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My prayers for the week