

Welcome to Menville United Methodist Church

August 23, 2020

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Video - <https://youtu.be/UWGMHobRx3o>

*To allow everyone to have a meaningful worship experience,
please silence or turn off your cell phone. Thank you.*

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

- For those watching online, if you are interested in joining us for worship in our sanctuary, please be sure to check our website for the safety requirements that have been implemented so that we may worship together safely. You can find the list on our website under the News tab.
- Please note that the church building does remain closed Monday – Saturday to visitors. If you are in need of speaking to Holli our Administrative Secretary or to me, please call the church office.
- If you have a prayer request, please email me at jill.clem@iaumc.net.
- Be sure to check for updated information on our Facebook page and our website.
- If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please email us at mumchurch@wiatel.net and we will add you to our list.
- You will find the full worship service videos on our website, You Tube channel and Facebook page under Menville United Methodist Church.
- If you are unable to worship with us in-person, we encourage you to mail in your gifts and offerings to the church office or you may set up online giving by contacting Holli our administrative secretary. You will need to fill out a form and provide a voided check.

Gathering Words

Music Meditation

Christ for the World We Sing

Call to Worship (unison)

They went to Jesus, and he asked them,

“Who do you say I am?”

They answered,

“You are the escha-to-logical manifestation

***of the ground of our being, the proclamation of which we find meaning
in our interpersonal relationships.”***

And Jesus said, *“What?!”*

Faith doesn't have to be that hard.

Life doesn't have to be that difficult.

Sometimes, we just have to live God's love.

Sometimes, we just have to live what we believe.

And so we are here, simply, to celebrate and to worship God! Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, in love You created us, and in love You sustain us, day after day.

So it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to You, knowing that You hear us, and will respond.

We offer our prayers for the world around us. We pray for those who find themselves in bondage: those forced into human trafficking, those oppressed by governments or economic systems, those enslaved by personal addictions. Gracious God, hear our prayer, **and in Your love, answer.**

We pray for those who struggle to raise their children in the midst of violence or poverty; those who can only stand by and watch as their sons or daughters die of starvation or malnutrition, of preventable disease, or from gang violence. Gracious God, hear our prayer, **and in Your love, answer.**

We pray for those who refuse to participate in violence or injustice, who courageously stand up for what they know is right, regardless of the personal consequences. Gracious God, hear our prayer, **and in Your love, answer.**

We also pray for those who oppress others, who are unable to break free from cycles of violence and anger, who are no longer able to empathize with their victims. Gracious God, hear our prayer, **and in Your love, answer.**

We pray for all who suffer this day, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

May Your presence surround and sustain each one, so that they may know your love and live.

Gracious God, hear our prayer, **and in Your love, answer.**

Finally, God, we pray for ourselves—members of Your Body here on earth. Break down the barriers that divide us from one another. Unite us in our common allegiance to You as Lord and Savior. Grant us compassion and humility in our relationships. Release the gifts You have given to each one, so that in us and through us, Your kingdom might come and Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

We lift these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

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.

Music Meditation

Amazing Grace

Prayer for Illumination

O God, open our hearts and minds and souls to hear your word as if for the first time. Help us experience anew the surprise and joy that your presence in the word can bring us.

Scripture – Matthew 16:13-20 (Common English Bible)

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” ¹⁵ He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. ¹⁸ I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. ¹⁹ I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything

you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.”²⁰ Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

Pastor Jill Clem

Prayer (unison)

Lord Jesus, You are a Lord who walks beside your people.

So we pray for people who walk for justice.

You are a Lord who raises up those who are bent low.

So we pray for those held down by the grindings of life and the indifference of the world.

You are a Lord who feeds the hungry.

So we pray for all who long for bread and the means to provide it.

You are a Lord who celebrates the small and the insignificant.

So we pray for the children and for those who are never noticed.

You are a Lord who says ‘Follow me’.

So we pray for courage and faith in our hearts that we may take up the cross and find it leads to life.

Amen.

Music Meditation

Jesus, Name above All Names

Blessing & Dismissal

Postlude