

Welcome to Merville United Methodist Church

October 25, 2020

21st Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation Sunday

<https://youtu.be/LIMZQePFcQU>

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 Merville 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

2 All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Praising You eternally!

3 Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother, Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Responsive Call to Worship

L: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

P: We are the salt of the earth.

L: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

P: We are the light of the world.

L: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

P: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

L: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

P: Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

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 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

Surely, the Presence of the Lord – 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

I can feel His mighty power and His grace

I can hear the brush of angel's wings

I see glory on each face

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture – Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (Common English Bible)

Then Moses hiked up from the Moabite plains to Mount Nebo, the peak of the Pisgah slope, which faces Jericho. The LORD showed him the whole land: the Gilead region as far as Dan's territory; ² all the parts belonging to Naphtali along with the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, as well as the entirety of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea; ³ also the arid southern plain, and the plain—including the Jericho Valley, Palm City—as far as Zoar. ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses: "This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have shown it to you with your own eyes; however, you will not cross over into it." ⁵ Then Moses, the LORD's servant, died—right there in the land of Moab, according to the LORD's command. ⁶ The Lord buried him in a valley in Moabite country across from Beth-peor. Even now, no one knows where Moses' grave is. ⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn't impaired, and his vigor hadn't diminished a bit. ⁸ Back down in the Moabite plains, the Israelites mourned Moses' death for thirty days. At that point, the time for weeping and for mourning Moses was over. ⁹ Joshua, Nun's son, was filled with wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to Joshua, and they did exactly what the LORD commanded Moses. ¹⁰ No prophet like Moses has yet emerged in Israel; Moses knew the LORD face-to-face! ¹¹ That's not even to mention all those signs and wonders that the LORD sent Moses to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to his entire land— ¹² as well as all the extraordinary power that Moses displayed before Israel's own eyes!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Reflection

Sometimes...

...when we're paying attention...
...or when we least expect it...
...when we're looking...
...or when we're most unassuming...
...you show us something that we have longed to see.

We may be vigilant seekers,
reading into the boring and routine or becoming excitable at the exciting;
wanting to capture with precision and delicacy
a moment that we discern is just for us.

We may play the fool,
backing into a divine embrace;
stumbling upon a transcendent promise;
no less moved by what we have witnessed.

Regardless of circumstances, it remains that we've seen it,
and it cannot be unseen.

You have made it seen. You have shown it to us.

You are the one who led us—willing or reluctant climbers—
up the mountain.

You are the one who says to us,
"I have let you see it with your eyes,
"this beloved landscape of mine,
"this long-sought destination,
"this craved place of blessing and promise."

Now that we have seen it, what would you have us do?

Now that we have caught a slight glimpse
or been given a lingering vision,
we wonder how to get to the place you've shown us.
It is too marvelous a place to live without,
too rich a source of life not to be shared,
too wonderful a reality to be forgotten.

You lead us back down the mountain—willing or reluctant—
because there is more to see,
and in one of your more clever twists,
we have become the guides,
the ones to show rather than be shown,
the ones to help make it seen.

How best shall we move on from what you have shown?

Simply: forward, to be what we have seen
for others longing to see it. Amen.

Music Meditation

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Commission and Benediction

Postlude