

Service of Worship
Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost September 24, 2023

At the *, all who are able, please stand. Congregation responses are in **bold type**.

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Lighting of the Candles

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Wilson Boveland

Introit

“Welcome Into This Place”

*Call to Worship

Norman Robinson

God rejoices at our presence here today

God welcomes us home with a celebration.

We come from different places bringing different needs

and God loves accepts and provides for us all.

Lord, help us extend Your extravagant welcome to others,

and by so doing, share the gift of Christian hospitality.

*Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

AAHH #175

*Invocation

Gracious God, You are a God of hospitality!

There is none like You. You welcome and receive all people.

You invite all to Your home, to Your table, and to Your arms.

Lord, help us to hear, receive and live this good news by treating others

as You treat us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Choir Anthem

“Let the Church Say Amen”

André Crouch

Scripture Readings

The Old Testament

Genesis 18:1-8

Leviticus 19:33-34

The Epistle

Hebrews 13:1-3

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

A Celebration of Noble Minds Charter School

School Choir

“Unspeakable Joy”

Noble Minds Drum Corps

Dr. Vera Triplett

Rev. Philip K. Brockett

Call to Reconciliation

We continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart. But God's grace is given to each of us, for all of us, freely, unconditionally, always. Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

O Lord, we say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take Christ to work, school, home. We believe that the gospel can transform the lives, of those who need it – but we believe that we are just the way we are.

Forgive us, Lord. Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace.

Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting.

Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life.

God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven, we have been made new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Song of Response

“Bless the Lord”

AAHH #105

*Passing of the Peace (*Say — “The Peace of Christ be with you” Respond- “And Also with You*)

The Offering

Hebrews 6:10

“For God is not unjust; He will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints, as you still do.”

*The Sermon

“Holy Hospitality”

Rev. Philip K. Brockett

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

TFWS #2153

Carrying of the Light into the World

Acolyte

*Parting Hymn (Please join in the Circle of Friendship) *“Bind Us Together”*

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King. There is only one body.

That is why we sing. Bind us together...

*Benediction

Postlude

“Bind Us Together”

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and by Tracey Braden in celebration of her 60th Birthday. Happy Birthday Tracey!

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CENTRAL ST MATTHEW
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Bringing New Orleans Together

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

“Holy Hospitality”

September 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

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