

**Service of Worship**  
**Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ**

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost July 14, 2024

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

Ringing of the Bells

Organ Prelude *“Eucharistia”* Caswell

Lighting of the Candles

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit *“God Has Smiled On Me”* AAHH #152

\*Call to Worship Norman Robinson

The earth is the Lord’s. Everything belongs to God. Everyone belongs to God.

**God founded the world on the seas and established it on the waters.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in God’s holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts. They will receive blessing from the Lord.**

Lift up your heads, O gates! Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in.

**Who is the King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, is the King of Glory!**

Let us worship God together!

\*The Opening Hymn *“Faith of the Martyrs”* NCH #381

\*Invocation (Psalm 24/Ephesians 1)

**Lift up our hearts, O God, for they can be heavy with concern and responsibility. Lift up our minds, from the hurried and hectic pace we often set for ourselves. Lift up our spirits, O God, to You and to the life-changing grace that You lavish upon us, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

The Anthem *“God of Mercy, God of Grace”* Jerry Davidson

The Scripture Readings

The Old Testament Amos 7:7-15 (IB)

The Gospel Mark 6:14-29 (IB)

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

Children’s Time

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.**

**Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:**

**This is where children belong.**

Call to Reconciliation

Let us join our hearts together as we approach God in confession.

Unison Prayer of Forgiveness

**Loving God, we sometimes forget that our lives are filled with blessings. We are Your children, and goodness and grace overflow. But we focus instead on what we do not have. We can be envious of others. We can set priorities that You do not approve of. We can be negative and gloomy, instead of filled with Your joy. Forgive us, O God, we pray, and lift our hearts to You, amidst the details of each day.**

Silence is Kept

And hear us now, in this time of silence, as we confess to You, in the privacy of our heart...

Assurance of Pardon

In Ephesians 1:7, we read that in Jesus, “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of grace that He lavished upon us.” Hear and believe this good news of the gospel.

\*Passing of the Peace of Christ (Please turn to your neighbor and say “The Peace of Christ be with you,” and respond by saying, “And also with you.”)

The Offering

Offertory Sentence & Prayer of Dedication Matthew 5:23-24

*“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.”*

Offertory *“Peace! Be Still”* Martha Prevost (soloist) Nancy Healan (piano)

Doxology NCH #781

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore.

Sermon “Why Is This In the Bible?” Rev. Philip Brockett

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

\*Closing Hymn *“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”* AAHH #469

Carrying of the Light into the World Acolyte

\*Parting Hymn

*“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

*“Bind Us Together”*

Piano Postlude

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.*

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**CENTRAL ST MATTHEW**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*Bringing New Orleans Together*

## ***Eighth Sunday After Pentecost***

***“Why Is This In the Bible?”***

**July 14, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

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