

**LAUREL HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**August 23, 2020**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Welcome to Sunday Worship**

As we gather, we celebrate the unique gifts God has given to all, believing that our many backgrounds and identities are essential to the shared offering we bring to God through worship, study, friendship, and serving.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS  
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OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

**Bold print** invites those who are participating in worship to read or sing along.

## Gather to Worship

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

arr. Hal Hopson

### CALL TO WORSHIP

from Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,  
**to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**  
Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
**so that you may discern what is the will of God –  
what is good and well-pleasing and mature.**

### OPENING HYMN

*Immortal, Invisible*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, through your Son Jesus you overcame death and opened to us the way  
of everlasting life. Grant that we who gather on this first day of the week to celebrate  
our Lord's resurrection may, by the power of your Spirit, arise from the silencing  
power of fear and death to the life-giving song of faith, hope, and love, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S TIME

Paul Escamilla

## Proclamation of God's Word

### PSALTER

Psalm 124

*Sung Response: When the storms of life are raging, stand by me.*

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side —let Israel now say—  
**if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;**  
then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;  
**then over us would have gone the raging waters.**  
Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.  
**We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;**  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.  
**Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.** *Sung Response*

SERMON

From the inside out

Laura Healy

## Response to the Word

RESPONSE

*Send Your Word*

Laura Marty, cantor

Send your Word, O Lord, like the dew, coming gently upon the hills.  
 Send your Word. We seek your endless love.  
 For life that suffers in strife with adversities and hurts,  
 send your healing power of love; we long for your new world.

WORD OF WITNESS

Ashley Landers

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Statement of Faith of the  
United Church of Canada

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,  
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,  
 to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
 God is with us.  
 We are not alone.  
 Thanks be to God. Amen**

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Three Variations on "Amazing Grace"*

Arr. Albert Alcock

Laura Marty, flute

(Based on an American folk hymn)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we gather today knowing that we have fallen short in many ways this week. There have been times when your light showed us the path to take, but we did not choose it because it looked too difficult. There have been times when you gave us someone to love, but we were so caught up in our own anxieties that we did not respond. There have been times when we could have been peacemakers, but our egos led us toward conflict, or advocates, but our fear led us toward silence. As we stand in the radiance of your love, may we continually be transformed into the people your love created. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

SILENT, PERSONAL PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends in Christ, the steadfast love of God never ceases, and God's mercies never come to an end, but are new every morning, and in every season. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven; we are forgiven. **Glory be to God. Amen.**

## THE 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.

## Sending Forth

### INVITATION

### CLOSING HYMN

*Many Gifts, One Spirit*

*God of change and glory, God of time and space,  
when we fear the future, give to us your grace.  
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.*

#### *Refrain:*

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise  
one Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word  
known in many ways, hallowing our days.  
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

*God of many colors, God of many signs,  
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear. Refrain.*

*Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,  
you are still creating endless love and light.  
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart. Refrain.*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Lead on, O King Eternal*

arr. Charles Callahan

### GUEST ORGANIST

Shelbie Simmons

☞ ☞ ☞

### LITURGIST

Ashley Landers

☞ ☞ ☞

### Altar Flowers

Given by Kathy Chandler  
in memory of Richard  
on their 51st wedding anniversary.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** , Vicki Ferguson, Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Gina, and Mark, (*Sue Hall's nephew and his wife*), Glynn (*nephew of Jill Caldwell*), Diane Halim, Larry Howard, Mary Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth, Annalynn Jackson, Lucian Manchester, Jane Manning, Shelley McMullen, Sandra Ojeda Medina, May O'Neal, Paul (*friend of Frank Healy*) Louise Rawlings, Debbie Regaldo and children, Javian and Malorie, Ella Sanders, Sarah, Matt and Annie, Doug Semmes, Stephanie (*niece of Dale Dorsey*), Geoffrey Waite, Pat Whitehurst, Nora Winkler

**Joys:** Megan Verette graduated with her master's degree, niece of James and Mary Verette.  
Steven Verette retired after 38 years civil service, brother of James Verette.

**Those Who Mourn:** William Hurt on the loss of his brother, James Hurt  
Family of Gloria Sparkman, who passed away August 11

**God's Presence:** Lacy Crawford and family, Clyta Coder and Ruth Garcia, Families, teachers, Sunday School teachers, Weekday School teachers, school custodians and administrators as they return to school, those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their families, as well as for the caregivers and researchers working to treat those affected and combat the spread of the disease; homebound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.

### PRAY WITH LAUREL HEIGHTS

Share a prayer requests by emailing  
[prayers@mylhumc.org](mailto:prayers@mylhumc.org),  
or calling the church office  
(210) 733-7156.

### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LAUREL HEIGHTS

Email [connect@mylhumc.org](mailto:connect@mylhumc.org)

### GIVING TO LAUREL HEIGHTS Online

[www.laurelheights.org/donate](http://www.laurelheights.org/donate)

#### Text

Text LHUMC to 73256

#### Mail

LHUMC, att. Bookkeeper  
227 W. Woodlawn Ave.,  
San Antonio, TX 78212

Questions can be directed to our  
bookkeeper, Louise Dudley, by email:  
[louise@mylhumc.org](mailto:louise@mylhumc.org)

### LIMITED IN-PERSON GATHERINGS TO RESUME

Laurel Heights will host two gatherings for up to ten people each in the coming week. One is a meditative setting in the sanctuary; the other is a sharing circle in the Parlor. **Reservations will be required.** Waiting lists will carry over to similar events in the following week. Masks and physical distancing are standard for these events.

**Thursday, August 27**

**5:00 pm Evening Prayer  
Sanctuary**

**Sunday, August 30**

**5:00 p.m. A Circle of Sharing  
Parlor**

**Reservations: Call 210-733-7156**

Similar services are planned for the following week, contingent upon the continuation of favorable community metrics. Again, a reservation is required for each of these gatherings. Please check the church's website and facebook page in the coming days for further information.

## Wednesday Evening Prayer Gathering

Wednesday August 26  
6:30-7 p.m.

we will have a time to gather  
by Zoom to pray for  
one another  
and the world.

There are three ways to join the prayer meeting:

**Option 1:** Follow this link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/130214408>

**Option 2:** Use the Zoom app, click Join Meeting and enter the Meeting ID:  
130 214 408

**Option 3:** Call (346) 248-7799, and when prompted enter the Meeting ID:  
130 214 408

## Drive-Through Super Adults ! Thursday, August 27 from 9:00 - 11:30 AM

We are inviting everyone to drive through the Woodlawn Parking Lot and wave to Henry and Susan Holloway and the pastor, Paul Escamilla.

You may drop off grocery items which will be donated to Christ Episcopal for their Sidewalk Saturday event that distributes food for families in need.

We will put books from the Super Adults library out on carts and you can get out of your car—one at a time—and find a book you would like to check out.

Wear your mask! Wave at your friends!



## Study on Race and the Church

‘We Are the Church Together: Racial Justice in the Church’ will examine the stages and ways that the Methodist Movement has been faced with issues of race—sometimes impressively and sometimes not. We will navigate together schisms in the Church over race and examine ways that racism has caused stress in the Body of Christ and created opportunities for proclaiming justice. We will look at tears in the fabric of our denomination and annual conference. We will look into the mirror at our own congregation and finally into our own hearts. Don’t come expecting a ‘feel good’ experience but come expecting to be changed!

This study will be led by our own Byrd Bonner and held via Zoom on 4 subsequent Sunday evenings at 7pm beginning on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, please contact  
Laura Healy @ [lhealy@mylhumc.org](mailto:lhealy@mylhumc.org)

## LAUREL HEIGHTS TO SHARE WORSHIP WITH ST. PAUL'S UMC HOUSTON ON SEPTEMBER 6

On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, Laurel Heights will participate virtually in the online worship service hosted by St. Paul's United Methodist Church Houston. St. Paul's, a congregation with a worship liturgy similar to Laurel Heights, has graciously offered to welcome us to worship with their congregation. The partnership will provide the Laurel Heights worship team with a free Sunday following 24 consecutive weeks of transmitting online worship. Rev. Jeff Davidson, senior pastor of St. Paul's, is pleased to welcome us to share in worship with the St. Paul's worshipping community.



That afternoon Laurel Heights will host a Zoom-format Communion service from the sanctuary.



### Realm Connect is Here!

The staff at Laurel Heights has implemented a new administrative software called Realm Connect to help run the daily operations of our church. Now, it's time to share it with you. Realm Connect allows church members to view church news & upcoming events, share contact information with other members, and manage their giving. Realm Connect will be accessible on any PC, tablet, or smartphone.

Realm Connect will replace the paper church directory that's been distributed in the past. However, paper copies of the church directory will still be available for members who request one.

Did you receive an email from Laurel Heights asking for your approval to share your contact information with others?

If not, please call Elizabeth at 210-733-7156.