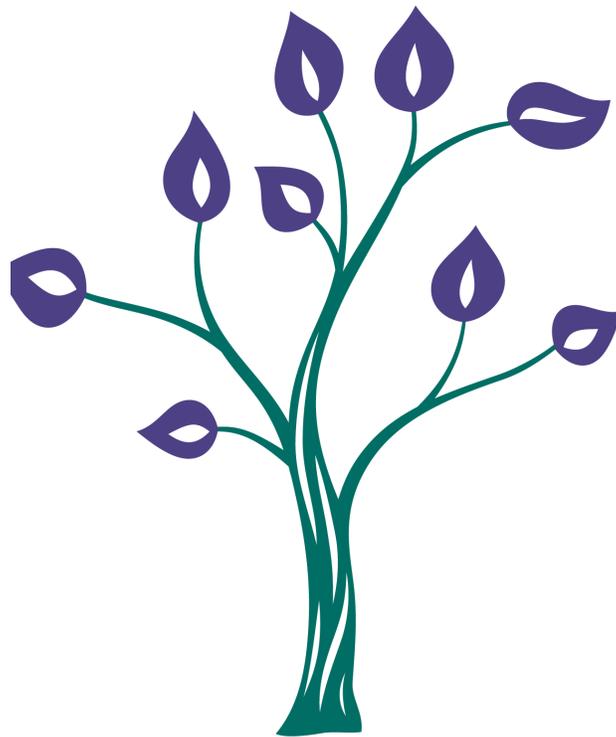


**LAUREL HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**October 11, 2020**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Giving Hope**

**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  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

**Bold print** invites those who are participating in worship to read or hum

## Gather to Worship

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Fugue on "Out of the Depths"*

P. Stearns

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called upon to be things that we've never been before;  
**asked to worship beyond our knowing, believe beyond our certainty,  
serve beyond our experience.**

We are asked to love in ways that are new to us, give more generously than in the past, trust more completely.

**We are asked to be things that we've never been before.**

**By grace, may we be open to the divine "yes."**

### OPENING HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*(Sung from the Chancel – Congregation may hum)*

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

(Congregation speaks the bold type)

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive.

**Let us all thy life receive;**

suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

**Thee we would be always blessing,**

thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,

**pray and praise thee without ceasing,**

glory in thy perfect love,

**glory in thy perfect love.**

*(Sung from the Chancel – Congregation may hum)*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.*

*Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;*

*changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,*

*till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

### OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God, new every morning is your call and claim upon our lives. You lead us by unsought ways, and send us where we would not choose to go. Stir up in us a desire to spread your light and love wherever we are –to announce good news where there has been none, to bring hope where there is despair.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus, the hope of the world. Amen.**

## Proclamation of the Word

### CHILDREN'S TIME

Tori Hartson

Cantor sings: *As with those who watch for morning, waiting for the light of dawn, so we long to raise our voices in the resurrection song.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be worshiped.**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, in the Lord's word I hope;

**my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, with the Lord is plenteous redemption.

**And the Lord will redeem Israel from all iniquities.**

Cantor sings: *As with those who watch for morning, waiting for the light of dawn, so we long to raise our voices in the resurrection song.*

## SERMON

Laura Merrill

**Response to the Word**

## RESPONSE

Cantor sings: *As with those who watch for morning waiting for the light of dawn, so we long to raise our voices in the resurrection song: "We were lost but God has found us; we had died but live anew. There is hope for new creation, shared in all we say and do."*

(Congregation speaks the bold type)

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,

**So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.**

As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,

**May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.**

(Congregation hums a stanza of the hymn)

## WORD OF WITNESS

Alice Gannon

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's un failing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

*Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.*

*Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let thy spirit unto us be given,  
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.*

*Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death victorious,  
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,  
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;  
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that there are times when hope, one of your treasured gifts to your people, eludes us. We choose worry for the facts and figures of the moment over wonder at the ways you gift and grace your world, and have time and time again seen us through. The whisper of your assurance is there, but our ear is turned to more shrill voices of fear and doubt. We ask your forgiveness, and seek your grace: turn us again to wonder, we pray, and to the whisper that would lead us to trust more deeply in your good purposes, in your deliverance, in your love. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SILENT, PERSONAL PRAYER

### 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

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*(Sung from the Chancel – congregation may hum)*  
*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.*

*(Organ interlude)*

(Congregation speaks the bold type)  
Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
**Fears and doubts too long have bound us,  
free our hearts to work and praise.**  
Grant us wisdom,  
**Grant us courage,**  
For the living of these days,  
**For the living of these days.**

*(Sung from the Chancel – congregation may hum)*  
*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.*  
*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
Serving thee whom we adore.*

*(All speak in unison)*  
**Serving thee whom we adore!**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on “Hyfrydol”*

P. Long

## **LITURGIST**

Alice Gannon



## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Given by their children, Sandra, Thomas, Les and William  
in loving memory of Lelia Carmines Romo and Dr. Thomas Romo, Jr.

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Healing:** Deanna Adams (*Shirley Carter*), Billie Arredondo,  
Refugio Campos, Jeanne Coder, Janie and John Ervin,  
Graciela Galvan (*Anthony Castillo*), Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*),  
Juanita, Larry Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth,  
Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, Jane Manning,  
May O’Neal, Bill and Dorothy Shepherd (*Janice Clayton*),  
Doug Semmes, Beeper and Rod Smith, Chris Welch, Nora Winkler  
and 3 friends in Montana battling cancer (*Marvin Huth*)

**God’s Presence:** firefighters in the western states and the people affected by fires,  
hurricanes and flooding, all workers helping with recovery efforts, Parents, Teachers and  
Students - Elementary, Middle School, High School, College - face to face and remote,  
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.

## Giving to Laurel Heights

**Online Gifts:** Please visit our website,

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

**Text to Give:**

Please text "LHUMC" to 73256

For illustrated step-by-step online and text giving instructions, click [here](#).



**Checks:** Please mail to

LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper  
227 W. Woodlawn  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Questions can be directed to our bookkeeper, Amy Caldwell, by email: [acaldwell@mylhmc.org](mailto:acaldwell@mylhmc.org)



### Wednesday Evening Prayer Gathering

October 14  
6:30-7 p.m.

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

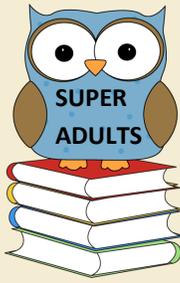
**Option 3:** Call (346) 248-7799, and when prompted enter the Meeting ID: 130 214 408

### Mission of the Month—Magdalena House

Magdalena House is a transitional neighborhood of homes in San Antonio that serves mothers and children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives by providing transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. We rescue the least and the lost, sharing hope for a new beginning.

**Magdalena House's Wish List:** The best and easiest in-kind donations are gift cards in low denominations (\$10) for Walmart and HEB. These gift cards allow us to meet specific resident needs and obtain objects as we have need and space. These can be mailed directly to Magdalena House at P.O. Box 692041, San Antonio, TX 78269.





### Monday, October 12, 10 a.m. Zoom Book Talk

We'll be discussing "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline, based on real events, the orphan trains that ran regularly from 1854-1929 from the cities on the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest carrying thousands of abandoned children. A powerful story of upheaval and resilience.

If you have attended in the past you will receive a zoom invitation. If you have not attended but would like to attend this one, please let me know. The easiest way to join is to click on the link on the invitation. Call Susan 210-872-8031 if you have a problem.

### Thursday, October 29, 11 a.m.

**Good News!! A Super Adult OctoberFest.**



Gather on the Woodlawn Parking Lot – wear your mask – after all it is nearly Halloween – practice Social Distancing – bring a chair or we will provide one and enjoy: German Songs, Accordion Renditions, the Chicken Dance and Lunch. Wear your Alpine hat, dirndl, etc.

On the menu is: Potato Salad Hot Dog OR Sausage on a Tortilla (Taco Polako)  
Sauerkraut OR Coleslaw Apple Strudel Cost: \$5.00  
You can bring your own lunch if you prefer.

### **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)



Needing help with our new church database?

There are videos on the church website to assist you.

Please call Elizabeth at 210-733-7156 if you have any questions.