

***Normandy Park United Church of Christ  
Sunday Worship ~ September 24, 2023***

***Bolded text is read and sung in unison  
\* indicates to please stand if you are able***

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**WORDS OF GATHERING**

The earth was made for flourishing.

**Life longs to bloom and blossom.**

Created in God's image, born of Love itself.

**We each have a role, we each play a part**

In service to each other and all our creaturely kin.

**We trust in our offerings.**

**We nurture each other.**

**We take hope in our collective potential.**

May the Creator of Life come and thrive among us.

**\*SONG ~ "Guide My Feet" #497 NCH**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**SPECIAL MUSIC ~ "There Is a Longing" ~ Karl Seidel, piano**

**INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT ~ "Silver Fir Cones"**

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

**Holy God,**

**You know that we know there are times**

**When we forget that every single human being**

**Is inherently worthy of love, care, and access to basic resources.**

**Help us to remember that we are called as Christ followers to care,**

**To be of assistance, to show up when others do not**

**For those who have the least resources—  
Whether it be in our local community or out in the wider world.  
As the body of Christ, we share in struggle and we share in joy.  
Help us to serve with more joy.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

People of God, you are beloved and you are already forgiven! We live amidst systems and norms that teach us to measure our worth according to how much money we make, what social status we bear, or how well we fit in. These stories about us and our neighbors lead us astray. Help us to recognize in ourselves and each other, a beloved nature. One that calls forth our compassion, creativity, and courage. That we may sustain life together. Amen.

**\*SONG** ~ *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* #506 NCH

### **SHARING OUR SACRED STORY** ~ *Matthew 20:1-16* (NRSVUE)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one

hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**MESSAGE** ~ *“Greater Than”* ~ Guest Speaker: Stacie Latimer

**\*SONG** ~ *“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”* #498 NCH

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

- Al W., Jon and Lori’s nephew
- Alice, Madison’s grandmother
- The family of Clay S., Wenden’s friend
- Erin’s mother-in-law
- Ida and John, Nancy S.’s sister and brother-in-law
- Jon C.
- Judi, Connie’s friend
- Judy H., Nancy B.’s friend
- Marilyn, Mack’s friend
- The family of Michael, Cindy’s friend
- Patty Ann, Judy J.’s cousin
- Randy, Belinda’s brother
- Sue B.
- Terry, Wenden and Bob’s friend
- The Vaughan family
- Yoko S.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Creator (or Our Mother, or 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 sins,  
 As we forgive those who sin 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.

AMEN (x5)

**SHARING OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE ~ "Here Are Our Hearts"**

Here are our hearts. \_\_\_\_\_ Here are our hands. \_\_\_\_\_

Here are our lives. \_\_\_\_\_ Use them as You can. \_\_\_\_\_ Show us those who hurt.

\_\_\_\_\_ Show us those in need. \_\_\_\_\_ Show us how to serve.

\_\_\_\_\_ Teach us how to see. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*BLESSING**

**\*SONG ~ “We Are Marching in the Light of God (Siyahamba)”**

***We are marching in the light of God,***

***We are marching in the light of God.***

***We are marching in the light of God,***

***We are marching in the light of God.***

***We are marching,***

***We are marching, oh!***

***We are marching in the light of God.***

***We are marching,***

***We are marching, oh!***

***We are marching in the light of God.***

***We are singing...***

***We are dancing...***

## **POSTLUDE**

*Pastor: Rev. Amy Hitchens*

*Ministers: Every One of Us*

*Music Accompanist and Choir Director: Cindy Dow*

*Deacons of the Month: Mark H. and Gaddy P.*

*Guest Speaker: Stacie Latimer*

*Liturgist: Rev. Amy Hitchens*

*Greeters: Mark H. and Gaddy P.*

*Usher: Mark H.*

*Flowers: Lori C.*

*Technology: Connie C.*

*Coffee Hour: Dorine S.*

### Worship Credits:

Presentation @ Stacie Latimer, 2023.

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