

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SOMERVILLE

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

Worship 10 AM

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/986500515>

Phone-in number: 1 929 436 2866... Meeting ID: 986 500 515

Password: 002367



Prelude *"Praise for the Morning"*

Lani Smith

Candle Lighting

Greeting

*Call to Worship

Look at the heavens!

They are shouting the glory of God.

The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative works.

Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of the world.

Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!

*Hymn *"Morning Has Broken"*

UMH #145

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from Heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

*Invocation

It says in the Bible, O God, that you created the world through your Word. Your Word is powerful! And so are our words. They can heal, create a smile, be a declaration of love; but they can also hurt and destroy a sense of self-worth. Give us your wisdom, God of the Word, so that as a church and as individuals, we use our words to build up and not to destroy. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

You have called us, O God, and we have refused to listen; you have stretched out your hand and we have not taken it. We have taken what you have given us and used those gifts to hurt others and defy you. We have refused to be tamed by your wisdom. Forgive our inability to recognize you and live out the reality of your gospel. Give us the insight we need to understand your place in our lives so that our words and actions reflect the glory of God in the lives of others. In the name of the Messiah we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of Assurance

The law of the Lord is perfect, and it revives the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure and make wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, and it enlightens the eyes. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ, the living Word, we are forgiven. Live in peace!

Time for Young Disciples

Prayer for Illumination

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord. Be our Rock and Redeemer. **Amen.**

Scripture Lessons

James 3:1-12

pew Bible page 1101

Mark 8:27-38

pew Bible page 919

*Hymn *“Be Thou My Vision”*

UMH # 451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Sermon *“Peace Through Wisdom”*

Offertory Prayer

God has given us the sun and made us stewards of all creation. God has given us our lives and our very beings. Let us give to God, from what God has given us.

Offering Give in person, by mail, or if you use Zelle: givingtofumc@gmail.com

*Doxology *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* *UMH #95*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,
all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

Interlude *Voluntary on “Slane”*

Eugene Butler

Pastoral 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

*Hymn *"Lift High the Cross"*

UMH #159

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. [Refrain]

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]

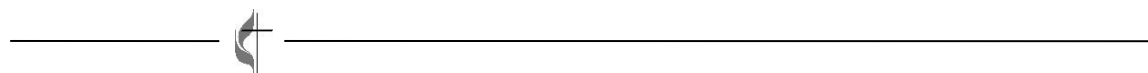
So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

*Benediction

When people ask "Who is this Jesus?" do not be ashamed of the gospel; share with them that he loved the world so much that he lived for us, suffered for us, died for us, and rose again for us – and invite them to follow him, too. **Amen.**

*Postlude *"Lift High the Cross"*

Michael Burkhardt



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