



ORDER OF WORSHIP
July 19, 2020
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hopewell UMC has a vision to be a community of hope for a hurting world.

Mission Statement: *We are a home for ALL people to be transformed by the love of God and grow in mind, body, and spirit.*

Our Core Values: *Worship. Learn. Serve. Love.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: In the midst of strife, God is with us!

People: Come, O Lord, and pour Your Word into our hearts.

Leader: In the anguish and grief of everyday living, God is with us!

People: Hear our cries, O Lord, and quiet our spirits!

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts and spirits to the Lord.

People: We come, with confidence and hope in the presence of Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER:

God of surprises, we come here from the weariness of the week, from various triumphs, from fears and doubts. Lord, it is so easy for us to focus on all the things that are wrong. We spend so much time and energy in anger and sorrow, leaving behind the possibilities of hope and service to you. Ease our hearts, O Lord. Forgive our willingness to get caught up in the negative. Direct our steps toward positive actions that will produce growth and peace. Open our hearts to receive your surprising message of hope for ALL people, for we ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* (vs. 1) **UMH #64**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT - (Jesus Loves Me: I will be teaching the group the signs and we will sign the song after I teach the moves. I will not call anyone forward.)

JOYS & CONCERNS (please use the piece of paper and pen provided in your bag to write a prayer request and drop it in the basket located on the altar table)

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 139:1-12 (NRSV)

Psalm 139

The Inescapable God

1

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

2

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

3

You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

4

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

5

You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

6

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

7

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

8

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night,"

12

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

New Testament

Matthew 13:24-30 and Matthew 13:36-43 (NRSV)

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

24 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; **25** but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. **26** So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. **27** And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ **28** He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ **29** But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. **30** Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” **37** He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; **38** the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, **39** and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. **40** Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, **42** and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

Spirit of the Living God

UMH #393

SERMON: "In the Weeds"

Rev. Laura Steele

OFFERING (please use the Offering envelope and pen in your bag and drop it in the basket on the altar table before or after the service, or you can donate online at: www.hopewellmethodist.org)

CLOSING HYMN:

Amazing Grace (vs 1 and 2)

UMH #378

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE