

## August 23, 2020 Bulletin

### Important Note to the Congregation

Welcome back! It is good to be together again, isn't it? While it feels good to worship alongside friends once again, it is important to remember that things will not be "normal" for quite some time. Until then, we appreciate your patience and willingness to "roll with the punches." Because your well-being is our #1 commitment, the following COVID-19 safety protocols have been implemented for our Sunday worship.

1. Attendance is limited to a maximum of 50 worshipers at any given service. If we find we need to add another service, we will do so.
2. Worshipers are required to "Savior Seat" (save your seat) during the week leading up to the service. This can be done either online ([www.phfumc.org](http://www.phfumc.org)) or by calling the church office.
3. Every person attending the indoors in-person worship is required to wear a face covering/mask. The church will provide a disposable facemask for anyone who does not have one.
4. Upon entering the building, everyone will be asked to sanitize their hands, after which they will be directed to one of the outside aisles for immediate seating.
5. Seating is in every third pew (2 empty pews between). Ushers will direct worshipers to their pew, beginning at the front and working their way towards the rear of sanctuary. You may or may not end up in your 'usual' pew 😊.
6. Non-family members are asked to keep at least 6 feet of distance from others in the same pew.
7. Until group singing is considered safe, worship will not include congregational singing.
8. The narthex restrooms are open and may be utilized by one person at a time. The sign on the door will indicate if the restroom is available or in use.
9. At the close of worship, worshipers will be guided out of the sanctuary beginning in the back and working forward.
10. Upon dismissal, worshipers are asked to immediately exit the building. Socializing (wearing masks, of course!) is encouraged to take place in the parking lot!

Prelude

When Morning Gilds the Skies

arr. by Lani Smith

\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 67)

L: May God grant us grace and bless us, and make his face shine on us,

**P: so that God's way becomes known on earth, and that his salvation becomes known among all the nations.**

L: May the people thank you, God! May all the people thank you!

**P: Let us celebrate and shout with joy because you judge the nations fairly and guide all nations on the earth.**

L: May the people thank you, God! May all the people thank you.

**P: The earth has yielded its harvest. God blesses us—our God blesses us!**

Hymn

"We, Thy People, Praise Thee"

UMH #67

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, God of every nation!

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, Lord of Hosts eternal!

1. Days of wonder, days of beauty, days of rapture filled with light  
tell thy goodness, tell thy mercies, tell thy glorious might.

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, praise thee evermore!

2. For thy blessings, for thy bounty, joyful songs to thee we sing,  
songs of glory, songs of triumph to our God and King.  
We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, praise thee evermore!

#### Unison Prayer

**God of all nations, all peoples, all races; God of the in-crowd and the outliers, the famous, the infamous, and the unknowns; God of the have's and the have-not's, the weak and the strong, the school-taught and the street-smart; God of the humble and the proud, the liberal and the conservative, the disobedient and the rule-follower; God of the legal citizen and the illegal alien, the righteous and the unrighteous, the domestic and the foreigner—God of ALL: we join all of Creation in praise of your wonderful and glorious name. Shower ALL persons everywhere with your grace and blessing, that ALL would come to know you. Through Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.**

#### Special Music

Never Alone  
by E. C. Heidelberg

Pearl Swanson, solo

#### Scripture Readings

Isaiah 6:1, 6-8

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple.

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?"

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

1 So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I'm an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God hasn't rejected his people, whom he knew in advance. Or don't you know what the scripture says in the case of Elijah, when he pleads with God against Israel?

<sup>29</sup>God's gifts and calling can't be taken back. <sup>30</sup>Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. <sup>31</sup>In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy too. <sup>32</sup>God has locked up all people in disobedience, in order to have mercy on all of them.

Mark 2:1-12

**1** After a few days, Jesus went back to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. **2** So many gathered that there was no longer space, not even near the door. Jesus was speaking the word to them. **3** Some people arrived, and four of them were bringing to him a man who was paralyzed. **4** They couldn't carry him through the crowd, so they tore off part of the roof above where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven!"

<sup>6</sup>Some legal experts were sitting there, muttering among themselves, <sup>7</sup>"Why does he speak this way? He's insulting God. Only the one God can forgive sins."

<sup>8</sup>Jesus immediately recognized what they were discussing, and he said to them, "Why do you fill your minds with these questions? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier—to say to a paralyzed person, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take up your bed, and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But so you will know that the Human One<sup>[a]</sup> has authority

on the earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed, <sup>11</sup> “Get up, take your mat, and go home.”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus raised him up, and right away he picked up his mat and walked out in front of everybody. They were all amazed and praised God, saying, “We’ve never seen anything like this!”

Message

“The Audacity of It All!”

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to Give & Offertory

Jesus (He is the Son of God)  
by Danny Lee

Pearl Swanson, solo

Hymn

“Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

UMH #273

1. Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,  
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,  
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;  
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

2. Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;  
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.  
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,  
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

In Your House, O Lord

arr. by James M. Stevens