

## Worship Service on July 30, 2023

**Welcome and Announcements** ~ Brenda Smith

**Opportunity** ~ Thank you for contributing to the Community Food Cupboard in July. They are collecting back-to-school items for August. The full list can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship room.



Happy Birthday to Lisa Hess on Wednesday,  
and Khloe Russell on Friday!

Thank you to Lois Squires for the flowers  
in loving memory of her husband, Phil Squires.



**Word of Preparation** ~ Brenda Smith

**Prelude** ~ You are invited to listen to Dave Cobb play  
***"Make Me a Blessing"*** on the organ  
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

## Call to Worship ~ 2 Corinthians 9:6-12 (NIV)

Please join in reading the bold lines.

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,  
**and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.**

<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,  
**not reluctantly or under compulsion,**  
**for God loves a cheerful giver.**

<sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly,  
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need,  
**you will abound in every good work.**

<sup>9</sup> As it is written:  
"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
**their righteousness endures forever."**

<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food  
will also supply and increase your store of seed  
**and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.**

<sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way  
so that you can be generous on every occasion,  
**and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.**

<sup>12</sup> This service that you perform  
is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people  
**but is also overflowing**  
**in many expressions of thanks to God.**

**Song ~ “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (#606, blue hymnal)**

*God whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store  
Rapture’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door  
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son  
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne*

*Treasure too you have entrusted, gain thru powers your grace conferred  
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word  
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ’s ageless call  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all*

Words ~ Robert L. Edwards, Music ~ Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music*  
1961 Hope Publishing Co.

**Praying Together ~**

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil  
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever,  
Amen.**

**Song ~ “Take My Gifts” (#381 in the blue hymnal)**

*Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me  
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free  
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away  
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply*

*Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed  
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God  
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter ~ flavor of the Jesus life  
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief*

*Take whatever I can offer ~ gifts that I have yet to find  
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind  
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be  
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.*

Words ~ Shirley Erana Murray, Music ~ Colin Gibson | 1992 Hope Publishing

**Song ~ Jim Holden will lead us in singing “Freely, Freely.”**

**Chorus**

***[He said] freely, freely, you have received  
Freely, freely give***

***Go in My name and because you believe  
Others will know that I live***

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name  
I've been born again in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His love as He told me to*

**Chorus**

*All power is given in Jesus' name  
In earth and heaven in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His power as He told me to*

**Chorus**

CCLI Song # 13209 Carol Owens  
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**Sermon Introduction ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons**

**Scripture Passage ~ 3 John (NIV)**

- <sup>1</sup> The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.  
<sup>2</sup> Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health  
and that all may go well with you,  
even as your soul is getting along well.  
<sup>3</sup> It gave me great joy when some believers came  
and testified about your faithfulness to the truth,  
telling how you continue to walk in it.  
<sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy  
than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.  
<sup>5</sup> Dear friend, you are faithful  
in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters,  
even though they are strangers to you.  
<sup>6</sup> They have told the church about your love.  
Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.  
<sup>7</sup> It was for the sake of the Name that they went out,  
receiving no help from the pagans.  
<sup>8</sup> We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people  
so that we may work together for the truth.  
I wrote to the church,  
but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us.  
<sup>10</sup> So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing,  
spreading malicious nonsense about us.  
Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers.  
He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.  
<sup>11</sup> Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good.  
Anyone who does what is good is from God.  
Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.  
<sup>12</sup> Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself.  
We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

(Continued on the next page)

- <sup>13</sup> I have much to write you,  
but I do not want to do so with pen and ink.  
<sup>14</sup> I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.  
<sup>15</sup> Peace to you.  
The friends here send their greetings.  
Greet the friends there by name.

**Sermon ~ “A Generous Life” ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons**

**Song ~ “Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant” (#490, blue hymnal)**

*Sister, let me be your servant, brother, let me walk with you  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too  
We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load  
I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through  
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony  
Born of all we've known together of great love and agony  
Brother, let me be your servant, sister let me walk with you  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too  
Words and Music by Richard Gillard | 1977 Maranatha Music*

**Benediction ~ based on 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

May we not rely on our wealth,  
but trust in the Living God  
who gives us all good things.  
May we be generous and willing to share with others.  
Our investments in others will bring beauty to their lives and ours  
as we both give thanks to God  
and remember the meaning of true life.  
Amen

**Postlude ~ “Jesus, My Savior” ~ original composition by Dave Cobb**