



# Worship Celebration

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020 + 11 AM

## **Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!**

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

*Join us in worship, Sunday mornings at 11 am, on Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA](http://www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA)), or watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at [www.umcb.org/sermons](http://www.umcb.org/sermons).*

*In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.*

## **We Gather as God's Children**

### **Opening Songs**

*All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises*

***You lived, you died, you said in three days you would rise;  
you rule, you reign, you said you're coming back again;***

***I know that you will and all the earth will sing your praises, all the earth will sing your praises.***

***You took, you take our sins away, O God; you give, you gave you life away for us.***

***You came down, you saved us through the cross; our hearts are changed because of your great love.***

***You lived, you died, you said in three days you would rise;  
you rule, you reign, you said you're coming back again;***

***I know that you will and all the earth will sing your praises, all the earth will sing your praises.***

*All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises / Paul Baloche / 2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

*For All You've Done*

***May Savior, Redeemer. Lifted me from the miry clay. Almighty, forever, I will never be the same.***

***Because you came near, from the everlasting to the world we live. The Father's only Son.***

***And you lived and you died. And you rose again on high.***

***And you opened the way for the world to live again. Hallelujah, for all you've done.***

*For All You've Done / Reuben Morgan / 2004 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia  
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## Words of Welcome

### Opening Prayer

*Love through us, living God, in the power of your Holy Spirit.  
When we doubt your strength, forgive us.  
When we doubt your constant presence, assure us.  
When we neglect to love others as you love us all, renew us.  
Empower us with your grace, and encourage us by your steadfast love.  
Unite us in the communion of your Holy Spirit,  
that we might live this day and every day with a faith that honors you.  
In your name, we live, worship, and pray, Amen.*

## We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

**People:** *Our ears and hearts are open.*

### First Lesson—Exodus 16.2-15 (CEB)

<sup>2</sup>The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, “Oh, how we wish that the LORD had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our fill of bread. Instead, you’ve brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death.”

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “I’m going to make bread rain down from the sky for you. The people will go out each day and gather just enough for that day. In this way, I’ll test them to see whether or not they follow my Instruction. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they measure out what they have collected, it will be twice as much as they collected on other days.” <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup>And in the morning you will see the LORD’s glorious presence, because your complaints against the LORD have been heard. Who are we? Why blame us?” <sup>8</sup>Moses continued, “The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning because the LORD heard the complaints you made against him. Who are we? Your complaints aren’t against us but against the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole Israelite community, ‘Come near to the LORD, because he’s heard your complaints.’” <sup>10</sup>As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I’ve heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>In the evening a flock of quail flew down and covered the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. <sup>14</sup>When the layer of dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” They didn’t know what it was.

Moses said to them, “This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel Lesson—Matthew 20.1-16 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup>“Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup>And they went.

“Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’

<sup>7</sup> “‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied.

“He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. <sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’

<sup>13</sup> “But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

## Children’s Message

## Sermon

## Hymn

*A Place at the Table*

WS 3149

***For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that’s fair.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

*A Place at the Table / Shirley Erena Murray, Lori True / 1998 Hope Publishing Company, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.  
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## Prayers of the People

## The Lord’s Prayer

## **Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings**

*Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online ([www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate)) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

## **Doxology**

UMH 95

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

Public Domain

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment**

*As we recall your wonderful works, O God, we are grateful for your blessings.  
As we return these gifts to you, bless them and send them forth,  
that others may be showered with your love and grace.  
In faithful trust and participation, we pray. Amen.*

## **We Go Out to Serve in God's Name**

### **Hymn**

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

UMH 519

*Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;*

*facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.*

*Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our father's sighed?*

*We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till we now stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.*

*Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;*

*shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.*

*Lift Every Voice and Sing / James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson / 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Company, renewed  
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## **Benediction**

*May we leave this time of worship in communion with the Holy Spirit.  
May we love with the grace of Jesus Christ.  
May we rejoice in the generosity of God.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.*

## **Postlude**

*Our service of worship is ended.  
Our worship through service now begins.*

### ***Morning Prayer***

Dear God, thank you for this day.  
Help me hear others  
as I know that you always hear me.  
Open my heart and help me  
give myself with grateful praise  
to things you have set for me today.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

### ***Evening Prayer***

Dear God,  
thank you for being always with me.  
Let me rest in you, O God,  
so that I will wake in the morning  
with praise and thanksgiving on my lips.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

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### **East Ohio Annual Conference 2020**

***September 26-27 via livestream***

***Livestreamed Worship Service, Sunday, September 27, 10AM***

This year's session of the East Ohio Annual Conference was rescheduled from June at Lakeside, Ohio to September 26-27 via livestream from Church of the Saviour UMC in Cleveland Heights. Included in this year's session of the annual conference will be a livestreamed worship service on Sunday, September 27 at 10AM. This worship service will be provided as our primary worship gathering on that day, and we will share more details for connecting with it closer to that date.



### **In-Person Indoor Worship**

***Sundays, 9AM, Wesley Hall***

While Cuyahoga County's Public Health Emergency Risk Level remains at Level 2 or lower, we will plan to resume limited-capacity in-person Sunday morning worship services at 9 AM in Wesley Hall, beginning September 6. If you are ill, experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, or recently have been in contact with someone experiencing symptoms, please stay at home and join us for our online worship service at 11 AM. Face coverings will be required at all times while you are in the building, and we will maintain safe physical distancing (minimum of six feet) from members of other households. Worship attendance will be limited to forty persons, and you must register in advance if you plan to attend. Registration for each Sunday's worship service will be open from noon on Tuesday to noon on Friday.

You can register online ([www.umcb.org](http://www.umcb.org)) or  
by calling the church office and leaving a message (**440-234-3525 x100**).



### **Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (In-Person)**

***Wednesdays, 7 PM***

All are welcome to join us on the north lot of our property on Wednesday evenings (weather-permitting) for brief worship services to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week. Please bring your own chair, wear face coverings, and maintain safe social distance (six feet) from members of other households.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan**  
at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x101**.



## **Messy Church is back TODAY!**

**Today, 6 PM, on Zoom**

Messy Church IS BACK! From the comfort of your own home! We'll get messy and play! We'll learn about the Peace of God! And we'll have a snack together!

Register on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/umcberea](http://www.facebook.com/umcberea)) or by emailing **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) for the Zoom link.



### **Book Discussion**

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson**

**Monday, September 28, 6:30 PM, on Zoom**

On Monday, September 28 at 6:30 pm, all are welcome to join us for a discussion of the book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson.

In this brand new book, Isabel Wilkerson—author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* (2011)—offers a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in the United States as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how our country today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Beautifully written and deeply revealing, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* is an essential story of people and history and a reexamination of what lies just underneath the surface of ordinary lives in the United States today.

To express your interest in participating so that you can be kept informed, please contact **Pastor Nathan** at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.



### **GriefShare Group - New Participants Welcome!**

**Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 PM, via Zoom**

GriefShare Programs are designed for help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, friend or animal. It is a warm caring place, to be you and share a little of how you are feeling with others, in the same situation. Some of the topics are: *Is This Normal? Challenges of Grief, Guilt and Anger, Stuck...*

**Join Zoom Meeting Online:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88344694889?pwd=RjlkcnGN5VU9FSUR0bHR3YThucVJMUT09>

**By Phone (audio only):** 1-888-788-0099

**Meeting ID:** 883 4469 4889, **Passcode:** 788920

There are workbooks available for \$15.00 Thank You.... hope to see you there!!

For more information or workbooks, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at 440-409-5931 or [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com).





## Children's and Youth Formation

We're excited to be offering Virtual Faith Formation this year on Zoom video conferencing! You'll see your Sunday School teachers and classmates, hear more stories and Scriptures together, and discover new ways God is reaching us and working within us.

Families with children need to join the Facebook Group found here to access family-let Sunday School: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/umcbsundayschool/>. Lessons can be accessed a month at a time, but are dated. Elementary materials will be available for pick up all this week on the church porch.

Families with Youth should note this zoom link for Live Sunday School at 12 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87382928705>.

Please be sure to fill out this year's registration form with new vital information we'll need from each family at

<http://www.umcb.org/child-youth-formation-registration-page/>.



## House Churches

Well ingrained in our Wesleyan heritage is the practice of coming together in small groups for fellowship, discipleship, and mission. As we weather this storm of a pandemic, and look towards a brighter future, we encourage you to consider this kind of small group community. Below you will find types of "House Churches" that we'd like to help you organize. The idea would be for you to safely begin meeting either online or outdoors, while weather permits. As we ease out of physically distancing ourselves from each other, the hope would be that these strengthened community groups will stay together.

How are house churches different from small groups or topical classes? In some ways, there's much similarity. However, we are recognizing our need to be together in different ways during this season. While we won't be able to gather as a whole congregation for some time, we are still, the church together and apart. We can be together in small groups and still be and experience the Church, or experience belonging to the Beloved Community.

Your house church will have a culture and rhythm of your group's creating. Perhaps you'll gather online once a month, and in-person once a month. Or perhaps you'd like to talk weekly. For now, we'll help organize a few households together based on their desired focus for their house church.

Complete the interest form **online at**

<http://www.umcb.org/adult-formation-interest-form/> or

**on Page 4 the September Caller** and we'll help get you connected to a house church.



## Prayers for the Berea Community Meal

For many years, our church has participated in helping to provide and serve a community meal at St. Paul's, at least once a year. We're grateful to have been able to do this again, despite the challenges of the pandemic. While we did not get to serve the meal, we will still provide the meal thanks to your generosity.

We invite you to pray for those cooking and receiving a warm meal on September 30th. May our community know that the Spirit continues to lift them up in these challenge times, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God.



## Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

*Wednesdays, 5-8 PM in the UMCB Parking Lot*

Dave LeBrun will be in the church parking lot, practicing safe social distancing and receiving your donations of non-perishable food items to support local food pantries. Canned meat (e.g. tuna or chicken) especially is being requested. If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate). Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for your generous participation.

## Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you; we have a team of servants ready to respond as best we can. Know that none of us is alone even though we will not be gathering together in person.

## Care Leaders

While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of "care leaders" who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you have not heard from a "care leader" yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a "care leader," contact **Pastor Nathan** at 440-234-3525 x101 or [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org).

## Staff & Office Hours

For the protection of all, our staff continues to work from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.

**UNITED METHODISTS STAND  
AGAINST RACISM**



**UMC.org/EndRacism**

## Praying for Change:

### Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism from Discipleship Ministries

Discipleship Ministries of our United Methodist Church is providing resources and guidance to help bathe our current moment and work together in prayer.

From Monday through Friday, new prayers are being posted and can be received by email.

For more information and to sign up to receive these resources at your email address, visit

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/praying-for-change-daily-prayers-for-anti-racism>.