



**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**September 13, 2020**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin  
Senior Minister

**MUSIC OF PREPARATION**

Mr. Rick Massengale, organ

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Martin

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

WELLESLEY

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Martin and **People**

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

**The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.**

The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

**Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.**

The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.

**Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power-- your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.**

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;  
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.

**At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap;  
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.**

The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'

You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

**Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?**

**Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?**



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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles' Creed*

Dr. Martin and **People**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy \*catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**      *\*universal UMH 881*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:*

*“The peace of Christ be with you.” “And also with you.”*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Dr. Martin

**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.**

**ANTHEM**

*I Will Arise*

Early American Melody, arr. Joseph M. Martin

*I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.*

*Come ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100th

**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.**

**\*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Dr. Martin and **People**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**\*SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Matthew 18:21-35*

Dr. Martin

*<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-*

seven times. <sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Economy of Mercy*

Dr. Martin

**HYMN**

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

DETROIT

*“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.*

*How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Dr. Martin

*May the peace of Christ go with you wherever he may send you.  
May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.  
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.  
May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our arms.*

**POSTLUDE**

*Finale in D Major*  
Rick Massengale, organ

Dietrich Buxtehude

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

*Please exit by the chancel only.  
Place bulletin in recycling bin or take it with you.  
Offerings will be received by the chancel as you exit.*

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Jackie Amos	Quentin Cash	Cindy Jennings	Mabel Wilbanks
Billy Arnold	Richard Clayton	Doris Kerlin	Brad Wilkinson
Van Askew	Howard Dunham	Margie McClendon	
Carolyn Broady	Margaret Grainger	Lurlene Perry	
Annelle Burch	Martha Hale	Claudia Rhodes	
Joe Byers	Eddy Householder	Sue Sheddan	

**The flowers today are presented to the glory of God**  
and in honor of Mildred Fitzgerald on her 103rd birthday on September 17, given by her family.



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