

St. Timothys United Methodist Church – Cedar Falls, Iowa
August 23, 2009 – 10:15 am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available.
A nursery is provided for children younger than First Grade.
Ask an usher to help you.

Gathering

Prelude

“How Lovely’ based on Psalm 84:1”

Curtis

(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit, the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

Greeting and Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 84)

Responsively

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallows a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

People: *Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.*

L: Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

People: *Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.*

L: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

People: *O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.*

***Opening Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

Red hymnal 451

Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for the community of faith that prepares us to live our lives faithfully, meeting challenges with the strength and protection of knowing that you are our guide and shield. We are grateful for the assurance that you are with us. Your presence is always with us. Amen.

Taking Off the Armor of God

Praying

Call to Prayer "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" Black hymnal 2200

Sharing Joys and Concerns

(After each joy or concern, we sing, "**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.**")

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sing responsively) Black hymnal 2278

***Passing the Peace**

Listening to the Word

Scripture Song "Hope of the World" +UMH, 178

Scripture Ephesians 6:10-20 Pew Bible 195

Anthem Stacy Paul

Sermon "Taking Off the Armor of God" Dick Clark

Sermon Response "Come and Fill Our Hearts" Black hymnal 2157

Responding to the Word

Opportunities and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Liturgist

"Years later, I came to understand that it was all a metaphor making mockery of warfare. We were to trust not in weapons and swords but in the everlasting presence of God. For defense, we had truth and righteousness, faith and salvation; our only offensive weapon – a sword of the Spirit – not tempered steel but tempered by the word of God. This was no ordinary battle. ... It is time to take off the armor of God, and it is time to take the armor off of God."

-Barbara Lundblad quoted in *Seasons of the Spirit*, 2003

Offertory "Melody of Peace" Ramler

***Dedication Song** "Seek Ye First" Red hymnal 405

***Prayer of Dedication**

Unison

And now with thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, for the relationships we share in this community, for sacred stories that give us hope, for a renewed vision of what it means to be your church, that we may become bold messengers of your gospel of love, living out justice, exchanging peace and bringing forth springs of living water wherever we go, we offer these gifts to you for the transformation of the world. Amen.

-Seasons of the Spirit, 2006

Going Forth

***Closing Song**

"O God of Every Nation"

Red hymnal 435

***Blessing**

***Blessing Response**

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

Black hymnal 2157

***Postlude**

"Andante"

Heyser

* = The Congregation is invited to stand
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