

Good Morning Church!

## **NORTH BEND CHURCH**

Sunday, July 16, 2023

*Because God is worthy we worship*

*\*indicates to stand, if able*

### **GATHERING AND WELCOME**

#### **Prelude**

#### **Announcements**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume on August 8 at 10:00am. The focus will be the Book of Ephesians. Please plan to attend this in-depth and insightful meeting where the goal is not to study the Bible, but to listen to God speak to us.

**Leadership Team Meeting:** The next meeting of the leadership team will be Tuesday, July 25 at 6:30 pm.

**Choir Practice Resumes:** Choir practice will resume starting Wednesday, July 26 at 7pm.

*(Are there any other Announcements?)*

## COME BEFORE THE LORD

### **\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love,  
and waits....

**People: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads  
and won't take root....**

Leader: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

**People: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they  
cannot live.**

Leader: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace,  
and waits....

**People: These are the places of deep growth where the seed  
will cast down strong roots.**

Leader: Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!

**People: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love  
takes root. Amen.**

### **\*Singing**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

UMH #156

(vs 1, 4)

**1. I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story,  
because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.**

*Refrain*

**I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.**

**4. I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.**

*Refrain*

**I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,**

**to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.**

## **PRAY UNTO THE LORD**

### **\*Praying Together<sup>1</sup>**

**Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of unexpected happenings and events which have surprised us. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. Amen.**

### **Joys & Concerns**

### **Silent & Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

### Anthem

*I Love You Lord*

**I love you Lord  
And I lift my voice  
To worship you  
Oh, my soul, rejoice.**

**Take joy, my King  
In what you hear  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound  
In your ear.**

### Reading the Scripture

Ezekiel 18:21-32 (NIV)

- 18:21 “But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die.
- 22 None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live.
- 23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

- 24 “But if a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live? None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because of the sins they have committed, they will die.
- 25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?
- 26 If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die.
- 27 But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life.
- 28 Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die.
- 29 Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?
- 30 “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.

- 31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?
- 32 For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Proclaiming the Gospel**

*Hard Faith: Repentance*

**RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD**

**\*Singing**

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

UMH # 357

(vs. 1, 2)

**1. Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,**

*Refrain*

**O Lamb of God, I come,  
I come.**

**2. Just as I am, and waiting not**

**to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,**

*Refrain*

**O Lamb of God, I come,  
I come.**

**GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD**

**\*Receiving the Blessing**

**Postlude**

<sup>1</sup> From “Worship Connection: July 16, 2023” by Nancy C. Townley, *ministrymatters.com*.