**WOODMONT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

MINISTERS - All Members

INTERIM PASTOR - The Rev. Kimball Cartwright, Sr.

DEACON TO ASSIST – Barbara Mackintosh, Deacon

GREETER- Carol Topitzer, Ann Yost, Deacon

MUSICIANS – Bruce Barrett, piano; Wayne Kenyon, percussion;

Carol Topitzer, vocalist

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

 *25 July 2021*

**\****Please stand as you are able.*

Sing to the Lord a new song. Worship God with gladness; come

 into God’s presence with singing (Psalm 98:1, Psalm 100:1-2)

**SONGS OF PRAISE**

**GREETINGS AND WELCOME**

**INTROIT (congregation)** “Sanctuary”

Words: “Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

 With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.”

 (John W. Thompson, Randy Scruggs, © 1982 Full Armor Publishing Company,

 Whole Armor Publishing Company  CCL# 20029017 )

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Barbara Mackintosh, Deacon

 Leader: We reach for the rainbow of God’s good news. It speaks of

 God’s promise to all humankind.

 **People: Blessed are they, who create with God, toward fulfilling**

 **the promise of God’s Word.**

Leader: We reach for the light that shines from God’s Word.

 **People: Blessed are we, when God’s light reveals a faithful way**

 **for us to go forward.**

 Leader: We reach for the One who said: “I am the light of the

 world,” that the light from God may shine through us as

 well.

 **Together: Blessed are we, when with hands and hearts**

 **extended, we are led by Christ, who sends us and assures**

 **us, “Remember, I am with you always.”** (Mt 28:20)

**\*HYMN NCH #275** *“Come Now, Almighty God”*

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION** *(unison)*

 **We thank you, Redeeming God, that among your greatest gifts**

 **to us are faith, hope, and love:**

 **-faith that brings forth courage and resolve to serve you and our**

 **neighbors, both in good times and in challenging times,**

 **-hope that never gives up your high calling, for we believe in**

 **your Reign that will one day be fulfilled, and**

 **-love, the greatest of these, that nothing can defeat, and nothing**

 **can excel.**

 **Hear us, O God, as with adoration, we lift grateful voices:**

**\*THE GLORIA NCH #759** *(unison)* **(Note: New wording below)**

 *Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;*

 *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without*

 *end. Amen. Amen.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

 **O God of grace and God of glory, we long for harmony and the**

 **blessings of community among ourselves, serenity when**

 **encountering daily problems that perplex us, and love that**

 **affirms the lives and growth of others. We long for the day when**

 **your promises will be fulfilled, our homes will be dwelling places**

 **of love, and the world a dwelling place of peace. We confess we**

 **are often anxious about our lives, rather than trusting in your**

 **wisdom. For times we have failed to offer kindness to others, but**

 **have been quick to take offense, forgive us, we pray, and guide .**

 **us in your pathways once again. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**WORDS OF FAITH AND ASSURANCE**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**MISSION EMPHASIS FOR JULY** *Covenant to Care &*

 *The Salvation Army*

 Please read the details in the insert page of this morning’s bulletin.

 *Your Missions Coodinating Team*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**  I Thessalonians 4: 9-12 Pew Bible, p. 960

**ANTHEM**

**SERMON** *“Love Plus Imagination”* Rev. Kim

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

**THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

 **OFFERTORY**

 **\*DOXOLOGY (Note: New wording below)**

 *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,*

 *Praise Christ, all people here below.,*

 *Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,*

 *One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.*

 **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

 **Good and gracious God, we dedicate these gifts, knowing that**

 **the blessings of life are for sharing. Through our giving of**

 **time, talent, and treasure through the mission and outreach of**

 **our congregation, may others near and far come to know that**

 **we care, and pray for them. We pray these things in Christ’s**

 **Name, as we say “Amen.”**

 **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* HYMN NCH #524** *“This Little Light of Mine”*

**\*THE BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Woodmont United Church of Christ**

Our Vision Statement

Woodmont United Church of Christ

embodies God’s unconditional love

by ministering to the needs of people and the environment,

striving to promote spiritual growth through scripture-driven,

exuberant worship and advocating for peace and justice.

We celebrate diversity and welcome all into a fellowship of

acceptance, forgiveness, spiritual exploration, and discovery.