

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>

### OPENING OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME    Jesus Loves Me    UMH 191    (ccli)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Called to be branches in Christ's body,  
**we yearn to be connected to the vine.**

Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,  
**we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.**

Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions,  
**we seek God's nurturing presence.**

— written by Katherine Hawker for the Union Church UCC of Tekonsha. Posted on **Liturgy Outside**. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

### OPENING PRAYER

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

— written by Nancy C. Townley, on the **Worship Connection** page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Where Children Belong TFWS 2233  
(ccli)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

TIME OF PRAYER

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

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 now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER HYMN Sweet Hour of Prayer UMH 496 (ccli)

LESSON 1: **2 Corinthians 5:6-17 CEB**

**6 So we are always confident, because we know that while we are living in the body, we are away from our home with the Lord. 7 We live by faith and not by sight. 8 We are confident, and we would prefer to leave the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9 So our goal is to be acceptable to him, whether we are at home or away from home. 10 We all must appear before Christ in court so that each person can be paid back for the things that were done while in the body, whether they were good or bad.**

**11 So we try to persuade people, since we know what it means to fear the Lord. We are well known by God, and I hope that in your heart we are well known by you as well. 12 We aren't trying to commend ourselves to you again. Instead, we are**

giving you an opportunity to be proud of us so that you could answer those who take pride in superficial appearance, and not in what is in the heart.

**13** If we are crazy, it's for God's sake. If we are rational, it's for your sake. **14** The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died. **15** He died for the sake of all so that those who are alive should live not for themselves but for the one who died for them and was raised.

**16** So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. **17** So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

**May God add a blessing to this reading.**

\*LESSON 2

**Mark 4:26-34 CEB**

**26** Then Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. It's as though someone scatters seed on the ground, **27** then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn't know how. **28** The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. **29** Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it's harvesttime."

**30** He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? **31** Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; **32** but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade."

**33 With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. 34 He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.**

This is the Word of God for all people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE                      Tending the Garden

\*HYMN                          Love Divine, All Loves Excelling UMH 384 (ccli)

OFFERTORY

\*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.

\*UNISON PRAYER

    Almighty God,  
giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,  
that we may praise you not with our words only,  
but with our whole lives. Amen.

\*BENEDICTION

    This Is a Day of New Beginnings UMH 383 v 4 (ccli)

POSTLUDE