

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

*"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."*

Psalm 147:3

Remembering the Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11

### ***Greeting and Welcome***

### ***Prelude Music***

### ***Call to Worship***

Let us focus on God's presence.

**In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst.**

Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

**In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed.**

Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

**In the midst of a world filled with war and strife.**

Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

**In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness.**

Come worship a God who gives life meaning.

Come, let us worship the Lord, whose grace and love know no end!

*Adapted from Re: Worship, September 3, 2011*

***Opening Hymn of Praise*** "For the Healing of the Nations" UMH #428. Words: Fred Kaan, 1965.  
Music: John Hughes. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**2. Lead your people into freedom,  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how, through care and goodness,  
fear will die and hope increase.**

**3. All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,**

dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness,  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

***Opening Prayer***

Holy God, today we remember. For those that grieve, we pray for peace. For those that served, we thank you for their commitment. For all of us, may we remember your Presence with us. In the worst of days, in unfathomable circumstances, in utter darkness, your Light breaks through. Therefore, we will not fear, though the world we know has changed, the Lord of hosts is with us. Amen.

***Special Music*** "Blessed Is the Nation" Based on Psalm 33:12-15, 20-21 - Soloist: Dee Leggett  
Arr. Lloyd Larson, Bechenhorst Press, Inc. 1989. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
The people of His inheritance.  
Blessed are the nations who turn to the Lord,  
And place their trust in Him.

Oh God, who reigns on high,  
Keep watch o'er all the earth.  
Creator of each heart,  
Your gracious love impart.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
The people of His inheritance.  
Blessed are the nations who turn to the Lord,  
And place their trust in Him.

Our hope is in the Lord,  
He is our help and shield.  
In Him our hearts rejoice,  
In humble trust we yield.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
The people of His inheritance.

Blessed are the nations who turn to the Lord,  
And place their trust in Him.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
The people of His inheritance.  
Blessed are the nations who turn to the Lord,  
And place their trust in Him.  
Who place their trust in God!

### ***We Remember – A Prayer for the Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11***

#### ***Scripture Reading*** Ephesians 2:11-22 (NRSV)

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The Word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

***Sermon*** “Day by Day” Rev. Matthew B. Sergent

#### ***A Litany of Healing and Hope***

Leader: When memories of terror reawaken the past, and there are experiences of death, loss, and grief, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

Leader: When anger and inflamed passion tempt us to respond with violence and seek revenge, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

Leader: When we are enticed to give in to the illusion that war alone will resolve conflict between enemies, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

Leader: When it feels like every menace, whether imagined or real, is a threat to our security, and fills us with fear, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

Leader: When religion is used as an excuse to exclude, threaten, or destroy others, forgetting or ignoring all that unites us, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

Leader: When we become stuck in the past, unable to respond to the challenges we face with vision and hope, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

Leader: When we wrestle with how to create a better future for our children, even to the seventh generation, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

Leader: When we struggle to find a new and peaceful way to live in the world, and forget that you, O God, are our help and salvation, then ...

**People: In your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world.**

**All: O God of all peoples, nations and creeds: you have created us and rejoiced in the goodness of creation, and have wept with us when we have experienced death, loss and grief. Send your healing presence into the world and endow all people, leaders, groups and nations with your vision of unity and peace; so that we and all people may move on from the wounds of the past and seek to live in harmony with one another; to the end that the goodness of your creation may be restored, enhanced and sustained for the common good of all. Through mercies of your love and grace, and in your sure hope, O God, bring healing to the world. Amen.**

*Source: UMC Discipleship Resources. Written by Rev. Richard Garland, 2011.*

**Hymn:** "This Is My Song" UMH #437. Words: Sts. 1,2 Lloyd Stone, 1934. St. 3, Georgia Harkness, ca. 1939. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. from *The Hymnal 1933*. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

**1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine;  
this is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;  
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:**

O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms;  
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.  
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,  
and hearts united learn to live as one.  
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;  
Myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

*Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer*

*Sending Forth Hymn* "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UMH #431. Words: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson. Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth,  
the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator,  
children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me;  
let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take,  
let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment and live  
each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me.

*Benediction*

*Postlude*