

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 2, 2020
INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

Serve first, last, and always--even when you get nothing back in return.
Love without limit--be it enemy, friend or stranger. For it is in serving and loving that we carry our crosses and become true disciples of Christ's love.
Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Here is God’s good news. Now is the time. God’s kingdom is at hand.

***SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 12:9-21**

*** OPENING HYMN: #185 When Morning Gilds the Skies**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In mutual compassion and authentic love...

People: we gather as the family of God.

Leader: We offer our gifts, our hope, and our lives...

People: to build up this community of faith.

Leader: We bring our songs of gratitude and joy...

People: to bless God with our worship and praise!

*** Let us pray (Congregation):**

Loving God, we come in search of you and your loving wisdom. Come to us and gather us in your love. Mold us into a community of compassion that is strengthened by the unity and power of your Holy Spirit. In joyous gratitude, we pray. Amen.

*** LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: #451 Be Thou My Vision**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We have given in to hatred, vengeance, enmity, and evil, even though you call us to serve and to love. Servant God, give us hearts that

overflow with love, compassion, and service, that we may offer forgiveness as freely as you have offered it to us; and that we may give as freely as you have given to us. In your amazing love, we pray. Amen.

*** LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: #454 Open My Eyes**

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

In pursuit of God, we come now to listen. As we seek God's face, we come now to look. Listen and hear, not just with your ears, but with your hearts and minds. For the One who is present in all places and at all times comes to us in many ways.

***SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 3:9-15**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: **“Excuses, excuses, and more excuses: Part 1”**

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: #357 Just as I Am**

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

HOLY COMMUNION

*** CLOSING HYMN: #389 Freely, Freely**

***DISMISSAL BLESSING**

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Romans 12:9-21 (NKJV)

Behave Like a Christian

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient^[a] in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given^[b] to hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have^[c] regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Exodus 3:9-15 (NKJV)

⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

¹² So He said, “I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.’

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**LeRoy UMC
Attention Financial Secretary
10 Trigon Park
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