

## WORSHIP GUIDE FOR AUGUST 30, 2020

### THE MORNING WELCOME

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

#### CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Most Loving and Compassionate God—Spirit of Truth and of Love—we come before you in humble adoration knowing our need for your grace, your mercy, and your strength. Grant us these things by the power of your Holy Spirit. Illuminate our hearts and minds and souls that we might better follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ our Savior and more worthily magnify your most holy name. Help us celebrate what you have done for us and what you have promised to us—both now—and forevermore. Amen.**

#### PASTORAL PRAYER (in unison)

**God of all creation, open our hearts and eyes so that we might see the face of our adversary, and recognize, as you do, that they are our sister, our brother.**

**God of Justice, you call us to live in truth. Give us the strength to admit our past transgressions, and to build new partnerships with old enemies.**

**God of Peace, you call us to love our enemies. Give us the wisdom to translate that love into a choice for dialogue over demonization, diplomacy over military confrontation.**

**God of Nonviolence, lead us on your path to peace that we might walk humbly with you.**

**We ask this in the name of the One whose peace we seek, Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READING

**Romans 12:9-21 (NRSV)**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you

will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**SERMON**

**“Overcoming Evil with Goodness”**

**Dr. Tim Hazlett**

**BENEDICTION (in unison)**

**May our lives witness to Christ's love.**

**May our words bring reconciliation.**

**May our thoughts be of peace.**

**May our touch bring healing.**

**May our actions count for justice.**

**May we be a sign of hope and a beacon of joy as we go forth to serve in God's name. Amen.**