

Bethel United Church of Christ

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here*

September 15th , 2019
14th Sunday of Pentecost
Membership Sunday

"Lost and Found"

*Please use the music of the prelude
to quietly prepare yourself for
worship in this sacred space.*



Call to Worship – Responsive

Leader: When the lost are found,

People: there is joy!

Leader: When hope overcomes despair,

People: there is joy!

Leader: When we seek and find God's
faithfulness,

People: there is joy!

Leader: Praise to God who is present to us
through Christ Jesus!

**People: Praise to God who is present to us
through one another!**

The background of the slide is a large, circular, light-colored mosaic or relief carving. It features a central figure, possibly a deity or a person of significance, surrounded by intricate patterns and text. The overall tone is muted and historical.

INVOCATION

Gathering Hymn

Amazing Grace

NCH #547

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!

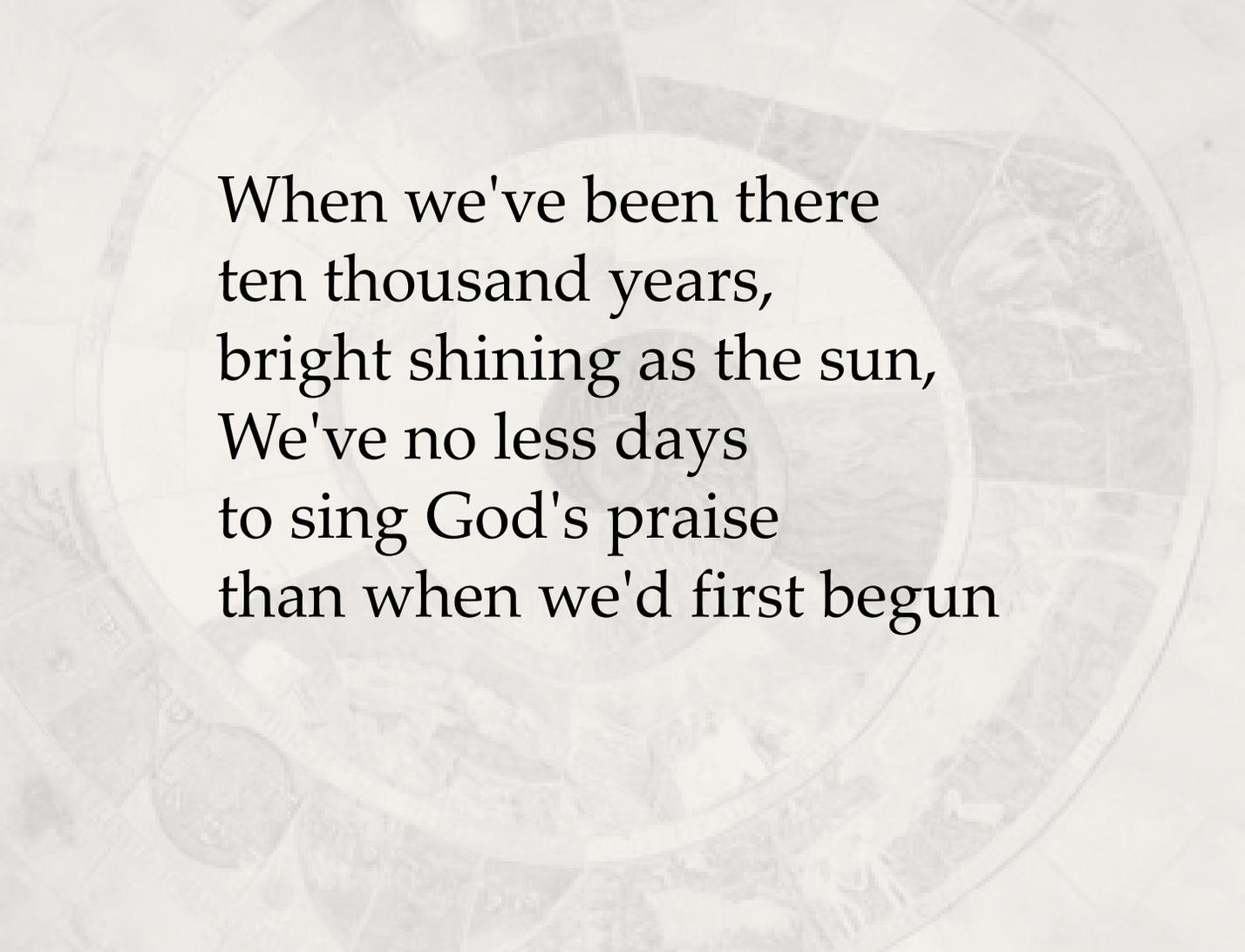
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.



When we've been there
ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days
to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun



Passing the Peace

Bethel United Church of Christ

Welcome & Greetings!

No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here

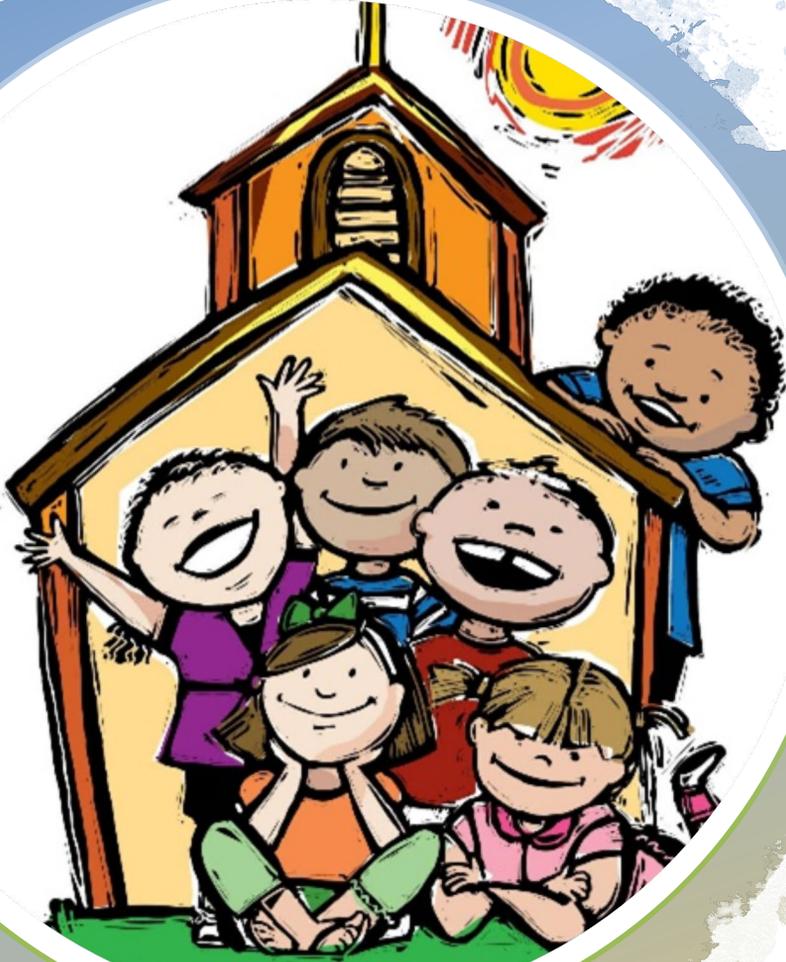


Special Music

Medley

Deanna Morrison

Children's Time

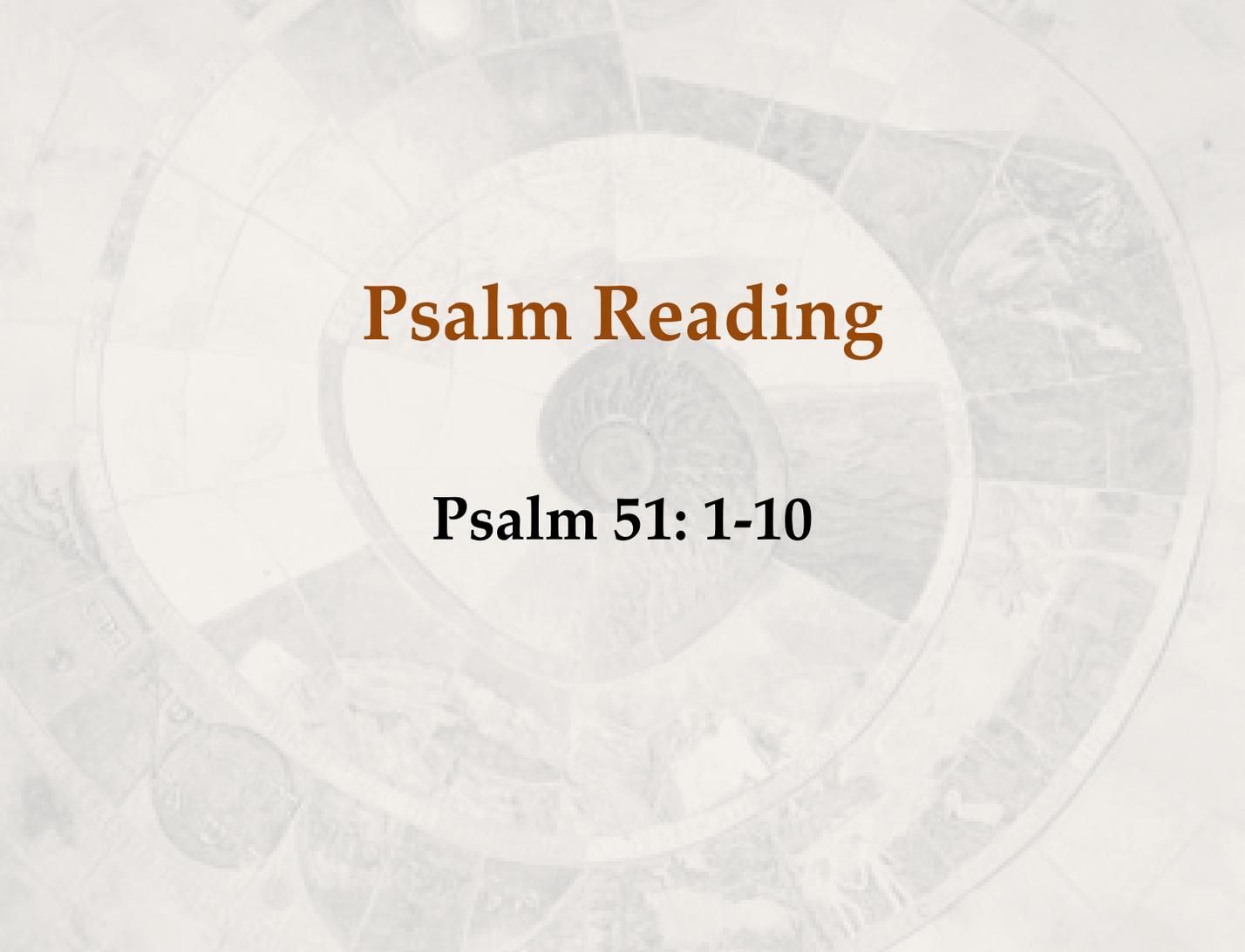


Gloria

(#759, NCH)

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



Psalm Reading

Psalm 51: 1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

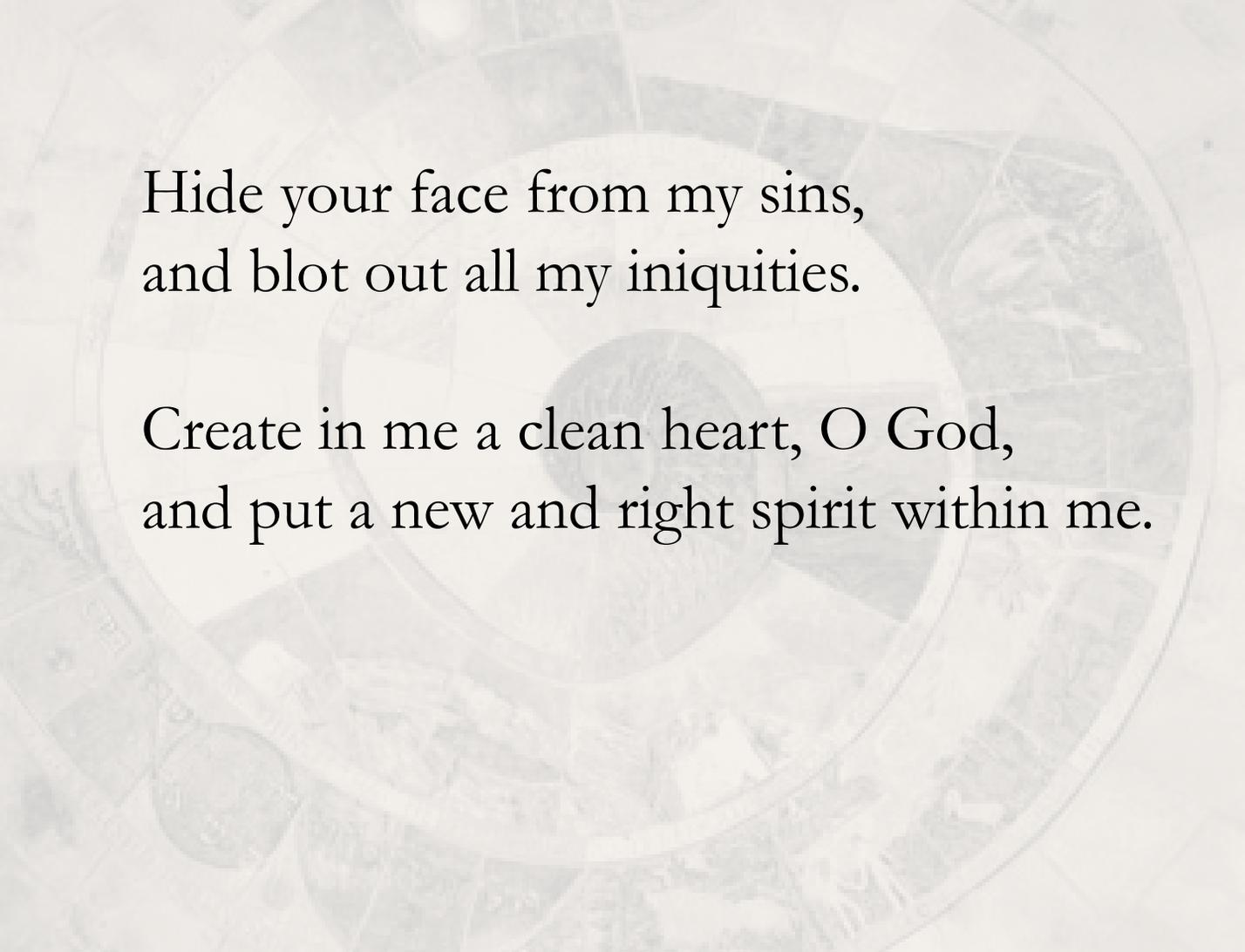
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

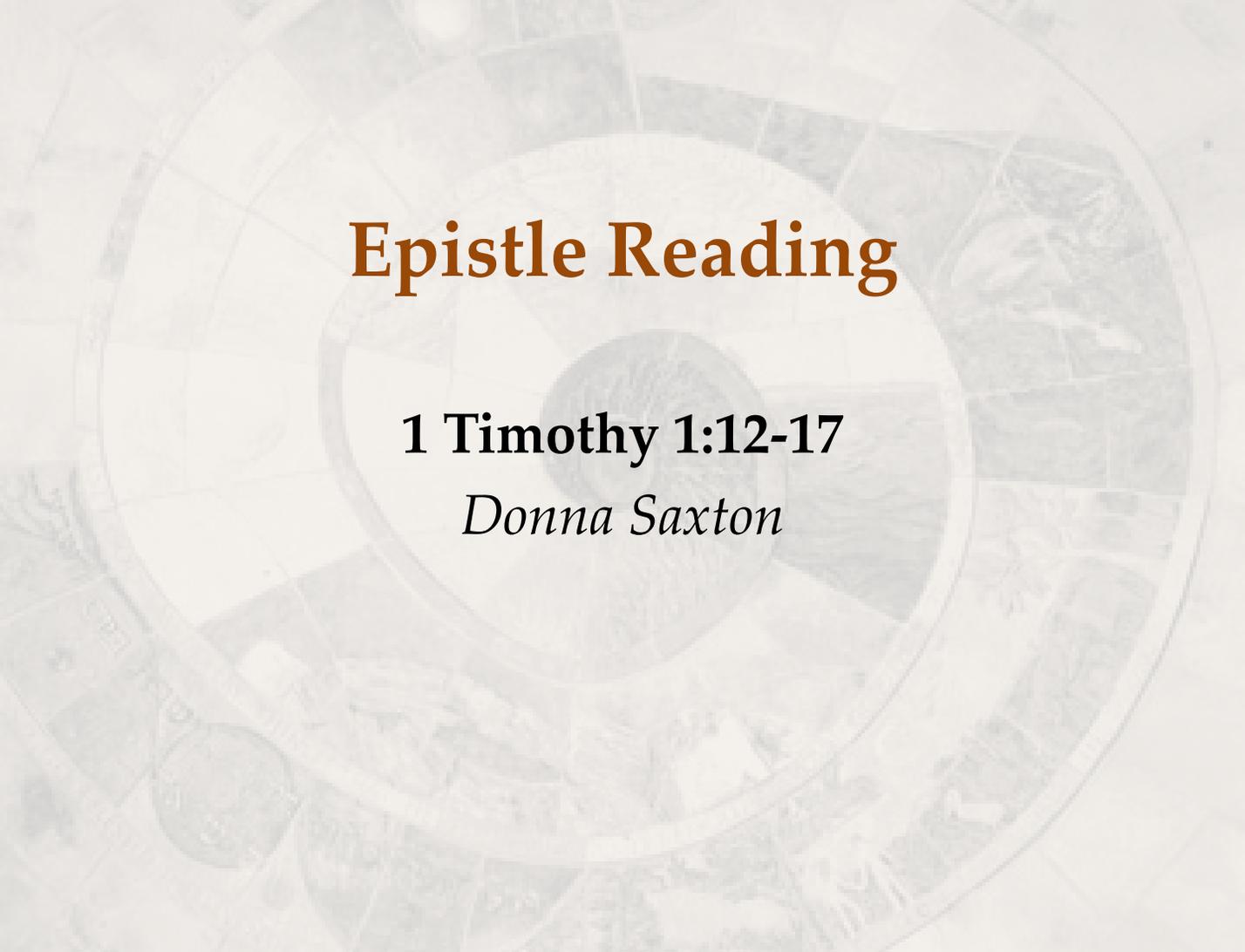
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.



Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.



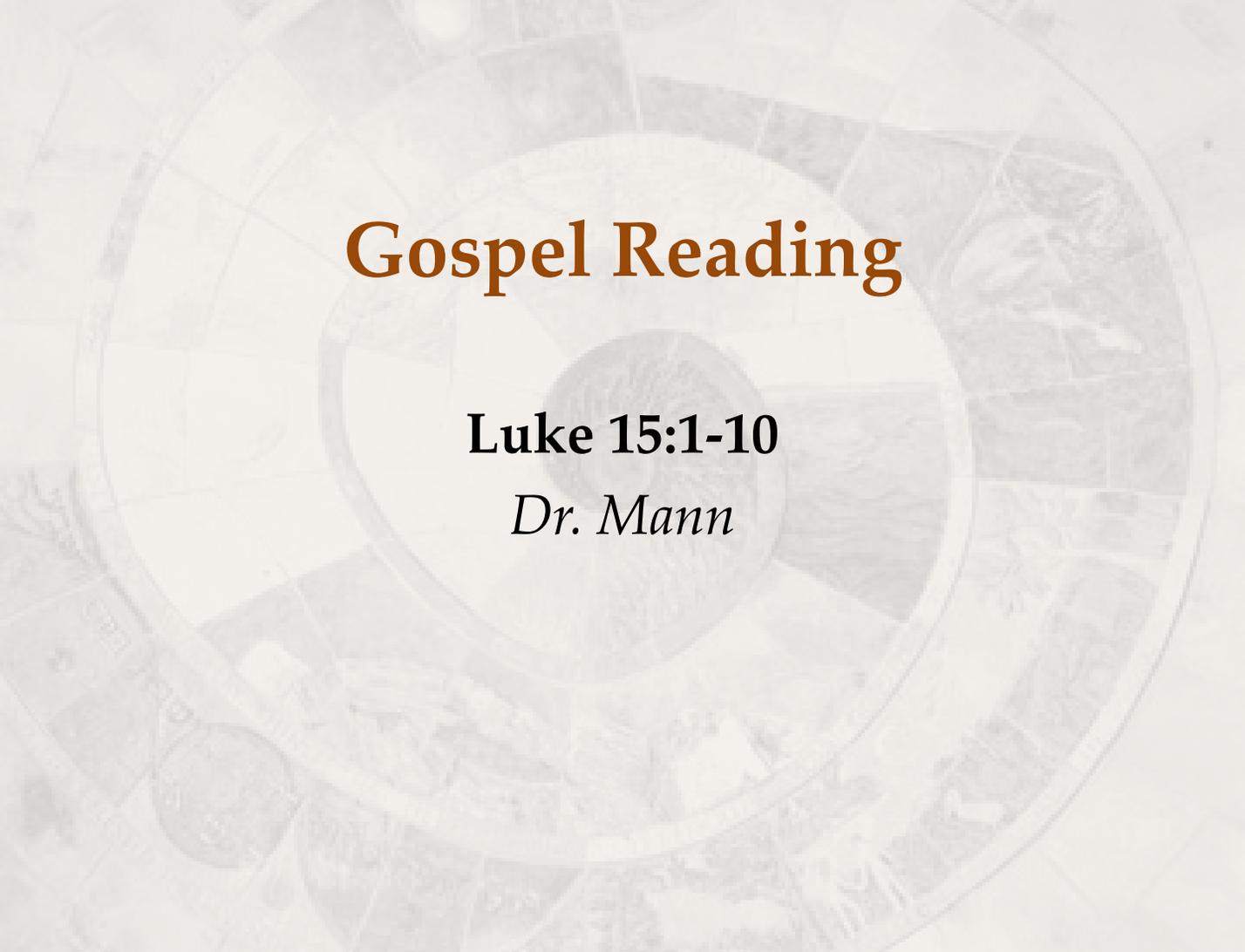
Epistle Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Donna Saxton

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.

But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-10

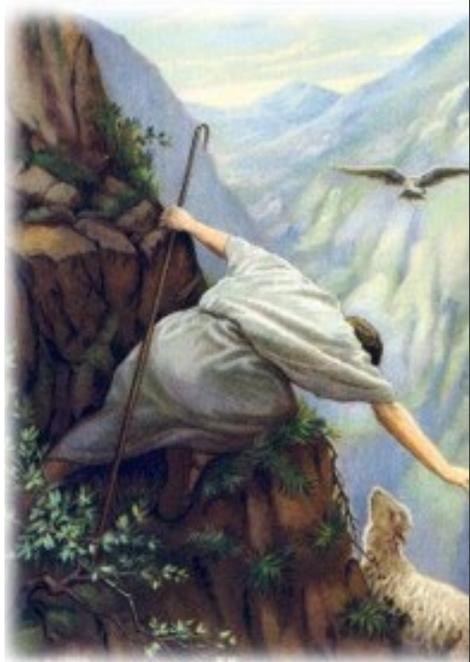
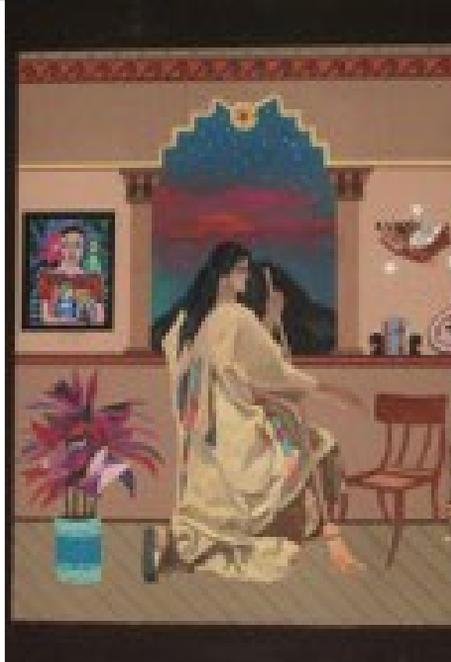
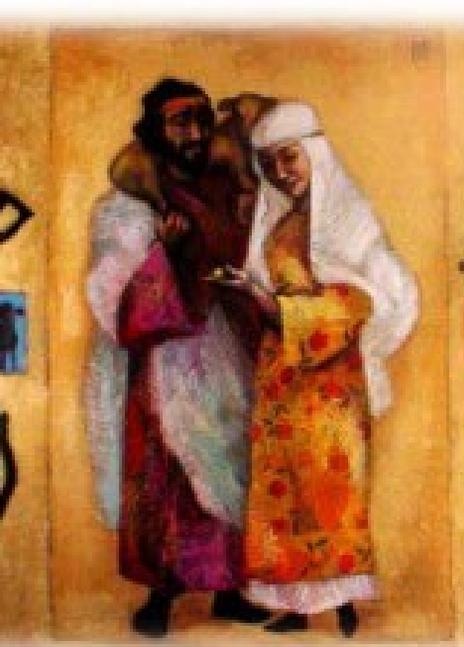
Dr. Mann

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



“Lost and Found”

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Reminder of Purpose:

Why are we here? Why does the church exist?

1. Celebrate God's presence (WORSHIP)
2. Communicate God's Word (EVANGELISM)
3. Incorporate God's Family (FELLOWSHIP)
4. Educate God's People (DISCIPLESHIP)
5. Demonstrate God's Love (MINISTRY)

1. Whose story has helped to nurture and inspire you in your own life of faith?
2. Is there a character from literature who illustrates God's mercy at work in their life?
3. How do you think Timothy was feeling back in Ephesus after Paul moved on?
4. How do you respond to the word "testify" or "witness" in a faith setting?
5. As you look back on your life, what are moments of grace?

Responding Hymn

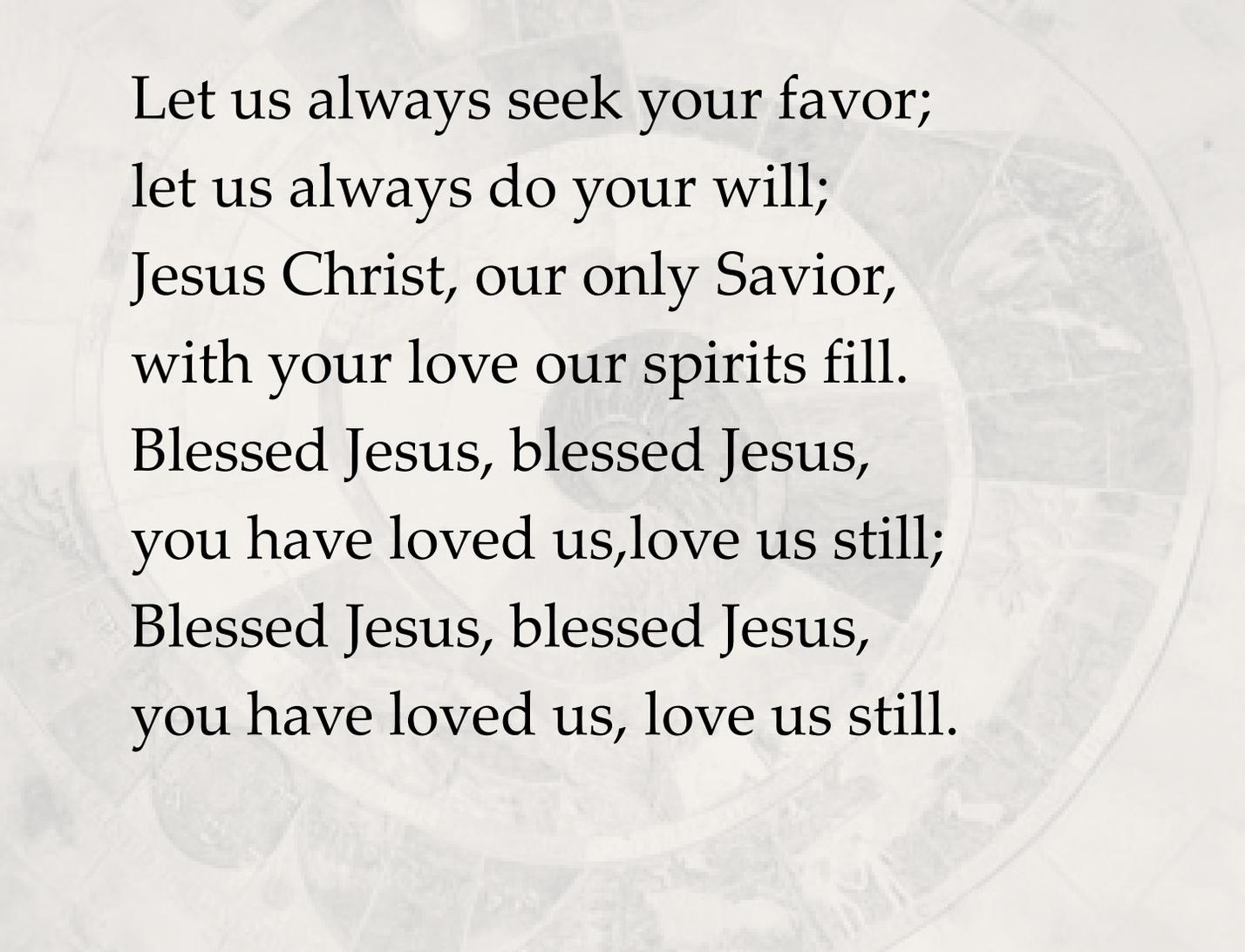
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH #252

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.

We are yours, in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.



Let us always seek your favor;
let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.



Reception of New Members

Invitation (*Pastor*)

People(*when directed*): For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Sentences from Scripture (*Pastor*)



People

(When directed - As water is poured from pitcher to bowl)

This is the water of baptism.

Out of this water we rise with new life,

Forgiven of sin

And one in Christ,

Members of Christ's body.



Questions of the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith

(congregation responds as directed)

Address

Question about Participation

Welcome and Reception

Pastor: Let us, the members of Bethel Congregational Church UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

PEOPLE: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.



Greeting of Christian Love

(Pastor and Church Leaders)

**In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Bethel
United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of
Christian love.**

Prayer (Amen)



Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, we find it difficult at times to place our trust in you.

Too often we look at the world,
and see only violence, pain, destruction,
and signs of hopelessness and despair.

Too often we rely on our own strength,
our own plans, our own devices,
rather than trusting in your hand to hold us,
your love to sustain us,
and your wisdom to see us through.

Forgive us, Holy One.

Help us turn to you when we are lost,
that we might find our way home.

Help us navigate the treacherous waters of this
world, that we might experience your abundant
grace, mercy, and love.

Help us put our trust in you,
that the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus
may shine in our lives for all to see. Amen.



Words of Assurance

Prayers of the People - Joys and Concerns

As we share, conclude with *“Lord in Your Mercy”*

Congregational response: *“Hear our prayer”*

The Lords 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 debts,

as we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to the Offering

The wooden plate is for our regular tithes and offerings.

The “Bandana Bucket” is for our Children’s Offering, which is used to help with some of our mission projects (Pet Food Bank, 5th Friday Desserts, etc.)



Music for Offering

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above the heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost
Amen**

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for these gifts
and ask that they be used
to help the needy in our community
and throughout the world.
As we offer you these gifts,
we offer ourselves as well,
that together we might transform the
world with your grace and love.
Amen.

Singing into Mission

There's a Wideness

in God's Mercy

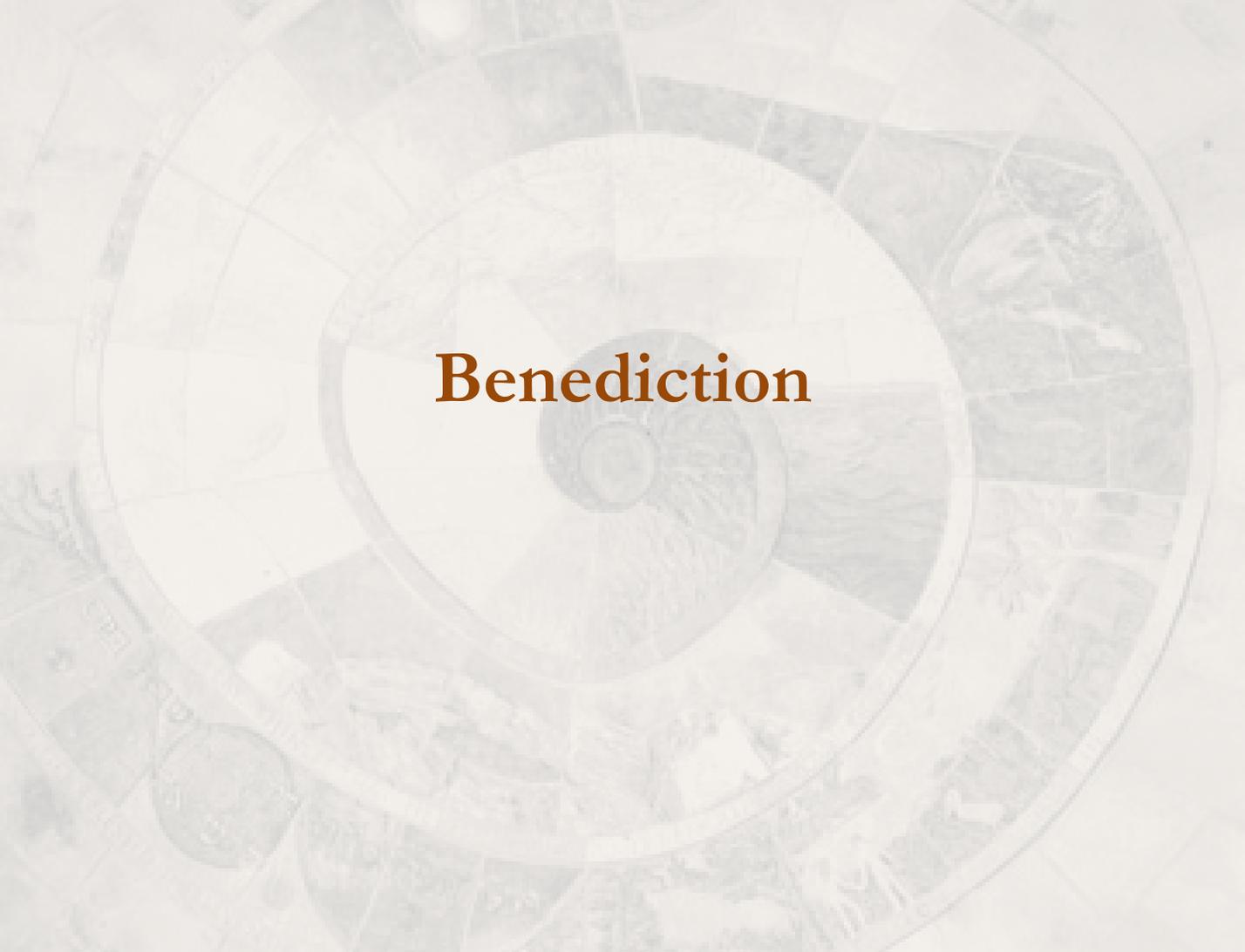
NCH #23

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.



Benediction

Carillon Postlude

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. *Reject racism.*

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.