

**The Approach to God**

**PRELUDE**

*"Unity"*  
L. Cornwall, Piano

Moore

**CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS**

**VOTUM**

**INTROIT**                    *"The Law of The Lord is Perfect"*  
Chancel Choir

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 1:1-3)

Oh, the joys of those who walk not after the advice of the wicked. Nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers.

**They delight in the law of the Lord and ponder it day and night.**

(Unison) **They are like trees planted by streams of water that yield fruit in due season, whose leaves do not wither; and everything they do prospers.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #13**

*"God Himself Is with Us"*

**\*SALUTATION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(unison)

Almighty God, Jesus called us to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Too often we have kept our salt in its shaker and not let it season and preserve the world around us. We confess that we have also tended to hide out light, and in so doing have kept light from those who live in darkness. Forgive us, for not living up to our calling, and through the power of your Spirit may we bring your light and your salt into this world. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Micah 7:18-19

**LAW OF GOD**

Micah 6:8 (sung)

Part I - *What does the Lord require of you?*

Part II - *To do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with our God.*

Part III - *Justice - kindness - Walk humbly with our God.*

**UNISON READING #63 I John 4:7-21**

(Page 534 Hymnal)

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

*"Unity"*

Moore

### **The Word of God**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Amos 5:10-24** (Page 662 New Testament)

**MOMENT FOR CHILDREN**

**\*MOMENT OF FELLOWSHIP**

**\*HYMN #253**

*"How I Love Thy Law, O Lord!"*

**SERMON**

**"The Hard Truth"**

### **Our Response to God**

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Belhar Confession

(see insert)

**RECEPTION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

Belhar Hymn:  
*"Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice"*

South Africa

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #507**

*"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"*

(Our monthly Mission Offering will be collected during the first verses.)

**\*BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

*"Unity"*

(Reprise)

**\*POSTLUDE**

\*The congregation may stand.

## TODAY'S STEWARDS

Greeter: Rosalie Davis

Ushers: John & Sandi Tarrant, Megan & Justin Trivette

Nursery: Vicki, Renee & Natalie Sherwood

Fellowship: Pastor Chuck & Eileen

Next week's stewards (**July 21**):

Greeters: Ron & Gayle Dellinger

Ushers: Jane & Jeff DeWitt, Noriko Hawk, Zandt Johnson

Nursery: Ed & Melissa Matson

Fellowship: Ron & Gayle Dellinger

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our Mission for the month of July is the RCA Missionaries Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather, working in South Sudan.

## SEEKING WISDOM

The Consistory has been working hard during the last year to come up with ideas that will help us address the issues our congregation faces. However, we do not feel that we are the sole repository of heavenly wisdom. Therefore we are asking you to prayerfully consider what you think we should be doing as a congregation. Toward that end we will be meeting for prayer on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the Library. This will be a time to be together as church members, praying together for the same purpose. We also will be providing pieces of paper in the bulletin during the month, upon which we are asking you to share your thoughts – things you think are going positively, things you think could be changed, and new ideas of something we can try.

## CHURCH MEETING

Next Sunday, July 21, the Consistory is meeting to discuss fund raisers and other ways of increasing our income. You are invited to attend and share your ideas. We are beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and we will eat and talk about these ideas.

## FOOD PANTRY

Needed items are: cereal, sugar, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, canned milk, jelly, ramen noodles, beef stew, chili, condiments like ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, hot sauce. They could also use laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels and toilet paper.

## **We believe**

- that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
- that God calls the church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

## **Therefore, we reject any ideology**

- which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.