

**August 17, 2008**

*The quality of mercy is not strained; it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.* —William Shakespeare

**Gathering and Praising**

**Music for Meditation**

*Be receptive to the Spirit of God as worship begins with Music for Meditation*

**Prelude and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**\*Call to Worship:**

One: This is a Sabbath dedicated to our God.  
Let this gathering place be a home for all people.

**All:** *May God be gracious to us and bless us.  
May God's face shine over all the earth's people.*

One: Let all the people praise the God of all nations.  
Let us give thanks and enjoy the blessings God gives.

**All:** *May God grant us understanding and courage.  
May faith grow beyond our doubts.*

**\*Hymn:** *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* #71

**\*Invocation**

**First Scripture Reading:** *Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7, from The Message*

**Songs of Praise:** *We bring the sacrifice of praise* Overhead  
*He has made me glad* Overhead

**Proclaiming**

**Children's Story** Janet Hildreth

**Scripture:** *Matthew 15: 21-28*

**Message:** *God welcomes all*

**Hymn:** *How pleasant when kindred* Overhead

**Praying**

**“For this we rejoice...”**

**“For this we pray...”**

**Hymn Call to Prayer** *Lord, listen to your children* #353  
**Prayer for all God's children**

**Offering**

**Invitation to Giving**

**Offertory** *Ubuntu!* Ann Belser Brown

**\*Offertory Response:** *Grant us, Lord, the grace* #388

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Sending**

**\*Dedication for Paul Belser Brown and Natasha Leming**

*Take, O take me as I am* #1084 (HS)

**\*Benediction:**

**\*Hymn:** *Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing* #110

**\*Sending Christ's light out into the world**

**\*Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able.

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Please be seated after the service for a congregational vote on the Executive Committee's recommendation that Tom August be licensed for ministry in the Church of the Brethren.

Please join us after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshment downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Then join us for the Sunday school study on the Acts of the Apostles.