



Then Jesus said to her,

*“Woman, you have great faith!  
Your request is granted.”  
And her daughter was healed  
at that moment.*

**Matthew 15:28**

# TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 2023

## GATHERING

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION:** *Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation. Amen.*

## RINGING OF THE CHIMES

### OPENING SENTENCES *(Psalm 118:24)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

ALL: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

### PRELUDE

*Prelude on Need*

Bingham

Dr. Terry McRoberts

### CHORAL INTROIT

*We Give You Praise*

Beebe

Chancel Choir

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Stacey McAdams

One: Turn us, O God,

ALL: *away from the world's temptations and distractions.*

One: Return us, O God,

ALL: *to the quiet calm of your presence.*

One: Restore us, O God,

ALL: *to the path you call us to follow.*

One: Orient us, O God,

ALL: *to the hope of all that is possible through you. Amen.*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

## PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. But we, who benefit from your grace, do not emulate you and your ways. We are quick to condemn, exaggerate critique and act mercilessly. We confess the ways we demean and dehumanize others. We pray for your forgiveness. Amen.*

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (*based on Romans 11:29*) Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Friends, the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Receive the gift of forgiveness and share that gift with others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 We Are Forgiven** WE ARE FORGIVEN

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL:** *And, also, with you.*

## THE WORD

**ANTHEM** *God Be in My Head* Hopson  
Chancel Choir

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** *Libby Smith*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Courtney Bowen

**\*HYMN: 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy** IN BABILONE

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *Elder Stacey McAdams*

**FIRST READING** *Romans 11:1-2A, 29-32 (page 161-162)* *Elder Stacey McAdams*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

**SECOND READING** *Matthew 15:21-28 (page 17)* Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

**SERMON** *A Great Faith* Rev. Courtney Bowen



## RESPONSE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*) Elder Stacey McAdams  
*We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God  
and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ  
through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the water of  
baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men  
to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to  
pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long-silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the  
Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we  
watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying "Come, Lord Jesus!"*

**OFFERING** Elder Stacey McAdams  
**OFFERTORY** *Prelude on SCHUMCKE DICH, O LIEBE SEELE* Brahms  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

\*Doxology (Tune: 606) OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*  
\*Dedicatory Prayer Elder Stacey McAdams

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

**\*COMMUNION HYMN 507** *Come to the Table of Grace* TABLE OF GRACE

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**  
**PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING**  
**BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP**  
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## SENDING

**\*HYMN: 318** *In Christ There is No East or West* ST. PETER

**\*CHARGE + BENEDICTION** Rev. Courtney Bowen

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Walk in the Light* Purchase  
Chancel Choir

**POSTLUDE** *Fantasy in C* Krieger  
Dr. Terry McRoberts