



**“WHOEVER WANTS TO**

**BE MY DISCIPLE MUST**

**DENY THEMSELVES**

**AND TAKE UP THEIR**

**CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.”**

**MATTHEW 16:24, NIV**

# FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3, 2023

## GATHERING

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION:** *Almighty God, in the self-giving love of Christ, you have revealed the path of salvation; give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## RINGING OF THE CHIMES

### OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 103:8*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious  
ALL: *slow to anger and abounding in love.*

### WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

### PRELUDE

*Voluntary in D Minor*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Boyce

### CHORAL INTROIT

*We Give You Praise*  
Chancel Choir

Beebe

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Carol Sue Keathley

One: We gather hoping to see God,  
ALL: *here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another.*  
One: We can see God  
ALL: *when we show one another honor,*  
One: when we pursue hospitality to strangers,  
ALL: *when we live in harmony with one another,*  
One: when we rejoice in hope.  
ALL: *Let us worship the visible God amongst us.*  
One: Let us pray. God of mystery and might, whose wonderful works are to be remembered, move in our lives, change our minds, soften our hearts, direct our feet that we may follow you more faithfully.  
ALL: *Yes, Lord, we seek to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 310 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

ST. THOMAS

## PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

### CALL TO CONFESSION (*based on Romans 12:21*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin.  
Let us then confess our need for grace, confident of God's forgiveness.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

*God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things, but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.*

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

One: Jesus took up his cross for our salvation. In return for our old life of sin, he promises a new life of grace.

*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.*

**ANTHEM**

**THE WORD**

*Give Me Jesus*  
Chancel Choir

Schram

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*Libby Smith*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**\*HYMN: 718 Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said**

**BOURBON**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Elder Carol Sue Keathley*

**FIRST READING Romans 12:9-21 (page 162)**

*Elder Carol Sue Keathley*

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

**SECOND READING Matthew 16:21-28 (page 18)**

*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**

*Crown and Cross*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

## RESPONSE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *The Confession of 1967*) Elder Carol Sue Keathley  
*The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ ... The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries...Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.*

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

## OFFERING

Elder Carol Sue Keathley

## OFFERTORY

*Amazing Grace*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. by Whitworth

\*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 Carol Sue Keathley

## SENDING

**\*HYMN: 826** *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

**\*CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Walk in the Light*  
Chancel Choir

Purchase

## POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune in G Major*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Dixon