

A person is running on a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The person's silhouette is visible against the bright light. The ocean waves are visible in the background, and the sand is wet, reflecting the sunlight.

*BUT ONE THING
I DO: FORGETTING
WHAT IS BEHIND
AND STRAINING
TOWARD WHAT
IS AHEAD,
I PRESS ON
TOWARD THE
GOAL TO WIN
THE PRIZE
FOR WHICH
GOD HAS CALLED
ME HEAVENWARD
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *We stand in awe of your creation, magnificent Lord. We gaze at the autumnal leaves and the indicators of change that is coming. We begin to think about the winter ahead and make preparations for the differences that come with changing seasons. Help us to turn our hearts to you, Lord. As we begin to settle down into more predictable routines, let us always be mindful of the needs of others. We offer this prayer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES *(Hebrews 1:3)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: In Jesus Christ we know the glory of God.
ALL: *He sustains all things by his mighty word.*

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

This is My Father's World
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. by Pethel

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 19:1-4)*

Courtney Hiscox

One: The heavens declare the glory of God!
ALL: *The skies proclaim God's handiwork.*
One: The day pronounces God's glory without a sound.
ALL: *The night expounds God's knowledge without a word.*
One: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth.
ALL: *Let us join our voices with the voice of creation in declaring God's glory.*
One: Let us pray. Creator God, the heavens radiate your glory! You have set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a joyful bridegroom from his wedding canopy.
ALL: *May we emerge from the night's waiting with such rampant joy that we too radiate your glory throughout this day. In the name of the Son of righteousness who has risen with healing in his wings. Amen.*

*HYMN: 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION *(based on Philippians 3:4-9)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Whatever good we may have done is nothing compared to the righteousness of Christ.
Whatever wrong we may have done is nothing compared to the grace of God.
With faith in Christ's righteousness and confidence in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in our abilities rather than in your love. We put our confidence in our belongings rather than in your generosity. We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to your Spirit and your will. Help us to follow your ways and find our freedom in your heavenly calling. Open us to new levels of trust and joy as we press on towards your goal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Friends, we have not already obtained the prize or reached the goal — but Christ has! And in Christ you are a new creation, you are made whole and you are called beloved.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

(see insert)

(sing 1st + last verses of all)

In the Garden

Love Lifted Me

His Eye is on the Sparrow

There is a Name I Love to Hear

Miles

Smith

Gabriel

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

NEW MEMBER

Bill + Dana Hardy (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RECEPTION:

Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

MINUTE FOR MISSION: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Matt Varino

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Courtney Hiscox

SCRIPTURE READING *Philippians 3:4b-14 (page 198)*

Courtney Hiscox

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

SERMON

Pressing On

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Colossians 1:15-20*)

Courtney Hiscox

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

(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

Courtney Hiscox

OFFERTORY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

arr. Whitworth

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

Courtney Hiscox

SENDING

***HYMN:** *The Old Rugged Cross* (*see insert*)

OLD RUGGED CROSS

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

arr. by Pethel

Dr. Terry McRoberts