

*... as for me and
my household,*

**we will serve
the LORD.**

Joshua 24:15, NRSV



24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Eternal God, you are our hope and our salvation, for in Jesus Christ you have conquered death. Baptized in him, we are raised to new life. Increase in us our faith and keep us watchful, that we may welcome Christ with joy when he comes to set the whole world free. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES *(Joshua 24:15, 24)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Choose this day whom you will serve.

ALL: *We will serve and obey the Lord our God.*

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Prelude on O GOTT DU FROMMER GOTT

Brahms

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Ketting

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: We are pulled in many directions.

ALL: *Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.*

One: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

ALL: *This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.*

One: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

ALL: *Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives.*

One: Let us pray. Through the week of stress and demands, we come to you this day,
O Lord.

ALL: *Awaken us again to your comforting and loving presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which you have called to us and sustained us. Make us ready to be of service to you. Amen.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 360 *Christ is Coming!*

UNSER HERRSCHER

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. John White

As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us, says the psalmist. With the assurance of God's healing mercies in our lives, we need not fear confession, but instead come with honesty, seeking wholeness in our own lives, and in the lives of those we may have injured. Let us confess to God those aspects of our lives in need of God's grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. John White

One: In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost, we are not lost to God.
God calls us to be ready for God’s new kingdom. In all this God is with us.

ALL: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *Glory Be to the Father

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. A-men, a-men.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. John White

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Nearer, My God, To Thee
Chancel Choir

Hanson

MINUTE FOR MISSION: HOW THE SCRIPTURES ADDRESS STEWARDSHIP

Gabi Cox

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

NEW MEMBER

Chris + Karen Anderson (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Rev. John White

RECEPTION:

Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

BELLS OF PEACE (*see insert*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. John White

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 (page 215-216)

Rev. John White

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

SECOND READING*Matthew 25:1-13 (page 28)*

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***Expect Delays*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Confession of 1967*

Rev. John White

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. "Now to him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

(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

Rev. John White

OFFERTORY*Prelude on HOLY MANNA*

Powell

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

Rev. John White

SENDING*HYMN: 362 *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

LLANGLOFFAN

*CHARGE + BENEDICTION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDICTION

May the Grace of God Our Savior
Chancel Choir

Stainer

POSTLUDE

Prelude on DARWALL'S 148th
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Burtonwood