



**Order of Worship
October 17, 2021
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 AM**

*10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Bound for the Promised Land

American Folk

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Call to Worship

Shally Stanley

Bless the Lord, my soul!

We come to worship the Lord our God, who is great!

Praise God, who creates the earth, the heavens and the winds.

Praise God, who continues to work, filling the earth with life.

The whole earth is filled with God's handiwork.

Let us worship the Lord our God!

Opening Prayer

Shally Stanley

Today, Gracious God, we are reminded of a story in your scripture when two followers of Jesus failed to understand the cost of discipleship. Help us have a clearer understanding of that cost and to treat it not as a burden but as a gift that has the ability to transform our lives and the lives of others in our community. Amen

Hymn (See last page)

All Creatures of Our God and King

UMH 62

Children's Message

Quinn Hetherington

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Ministry of Music

It Will Be Worth It All

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Liturgist

With a reverent sense of your presence and your Spirit's gift of guidance, we gratefully approach your word today, Holy God. Help us meditate on the message you intend for us and be open to your life-giving truth. Amen.

Introduction to Psalm 104

Shally Stanley

Psalm 104 is a majestic hymn of praise which extols the Lord as creator and sustainer of the natural world. As a companion hymn to Psalm 103, it calls upon worshipers to add their voices to the vast chorus of praise ascending to the very heavenly dwelling place of God.

Psalm 104:1-9, 24,

God the Creator and Provider

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,

you make the clouds your chariot,

you ride on the wings of the wind,

⁴ you make the winds your messengers,

fire and flame your ministers.

⁵ You set the earth on its foundations,

so that it shall never be shaken.

⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ At your rebuke they flee;

at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

⁸ They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys

to the place that you appointed for them.

⁹You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.

²⁴O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

³⁵Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

Introduction to Mark 10:35-45

Shally Stanley

In Mark 10:35-45, Jesus is nearing Jerusalem, the city where he will be killed by the ruling authorities. This passage plays a key role in Mark's understanding of why Jesus dies and what his death means. It describes the Christian gospel and the community it creates as utterly different from the "business as usual" we encounter all around us.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:35-45 (NRSV)

The Request of James and John

³⁵Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³⁷They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

³⁸"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" ³⁹"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

⁴¹When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴²Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

True Greatness

Pastor Debra

Call to Confession

Pastor Debra

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just. He will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,9) In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

Christ, our Lord, while you lived on earth, you showed us how you wanted us to live. You gave us everything and lived as a servant. You taught that in your kingdom the first would be last and the last would be first. We confess that we often try to be first. We forget that you call us to follow your example as a servant. We want your kingdom to come but we are unwilling to make sacrifices. We proclaim that we believe in you but our lives do not always show it. Forgive us for our inconsistency. May our lives reflect your transforming grace.

Assurance of Pardon

God gives us these words of comfort from 1 John: If anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are redeemed and renewed!

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Debra

**Doxology Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication- All Praying*

Shally Stanley

Great and gracious God, we offer you these gifts, small tokens of our love for you. Bless them with the power of your Holy Spirit so they may accomplish more than we can even imagine, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Friend. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn (See last page)

The Servant Song

FWS 2222

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Sung Benediction

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

The Spirit sends us forth to serve;

We go in Jesus' name

To bring glad tidings to the poor,

God's favor to proclaim.

Postlude

The Abundant Life

Parker

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Refrain:

O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!*

*O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam! **Refrain***

*O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain,
By which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice! **Refrain***

*O sister water, flowing clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight, **Refrain***

THE SERVANT SONG

*Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*