



“A Wonder-Full Life: Looking with Gratitude”

**Order of Worship
November 13, 2022
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

I Love to Tell the Story

Fischer

Sung Response

Be Thou My Vision, Verse One

UMH 451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Opening Litany

Lighting the Candle of Faith

Tina Wilmoth

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,
there is understanding;
where there is understanding,
there is compassion;
where there is compassion,
there is possibility;
where there is possibility;
there is transformation.

Holy and Living God,
transform our fears into awe-inspired wonder.
**Open us to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us
for a “wonder-full” life.**

Opening Hymn

See last page for words

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

Passing the Peace of Christ

A Wonder-Full Life

To be full of love,
To be full of grace,
To be full of peace
Is a wonder full life.

Giving others love
Giving others grace
Giving others peace
Is a wonder full life.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

Eternal and Generous God, Every good gift comes from You. Your generosity is expressed best Through Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One, Who gave Himself for us. We acknowledge we often doubt Your willingness to give what we need. We do not ask. We do not seek. We do not knock. We think You don't want to be bothered, because we often don't want to be bothered by the needs of others. Forgive us for our lack of trust In Your generous nature. Forgive us for our lack of faith In Your sufficient supply. Forgive us for our lack of desire to give to others as You have given to us. Reorient our lives in Your way. Renew us for faithful service in Your Kingdom. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ministry of Music

See last page for words

With a Grateful Heart and Joyful Song

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Sung Response

Be Thou My Vision, Second Verse

UMH 451

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

A Reading from the Book of Acts 4:32-37

Tina Wilmoth

The Believers Share Their Possessions

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so

powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

This is a Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Wonder-Full Life: Looking with Gratitude

Pastor Debra

Preparation for Prayer

Thank You, Lord

UMH 84

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.
I just want to thank you, Lord.

Morning Prayer

Pastor Debra

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.

Prayer Praise Response

Thank You, Lord

UMH 84

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.
I just want to thank you, Lord.

What I Have a Sense of Wonder About

Pastor Debra

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Dear Father, We Thank You

**Doxology*

Be Thou My Vision, Verse Three

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

**Prayer of Dedication*

Tina Wilmoth

We look with gratitude upon everything in our lives as a gift from you.

We offer all we can back to you in service to your beloved creation and all peoples in it.

With great thanksgiving we commit to this spiritual journey of stewarding
the resources and treasures that come into our care.

Keep us ever mindful of the times when others have shared with us
and the difference it made in our lives

so that our giving connects us as human family in ever stronger ways.

In the name of the one who gave it all, even his very life, for love and justice,
Jesus the Christ.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

UMH 383

Benediction

Pastor Debra

One more time, we remember George and Mary Bailey's words of hospitality:

“Bread! That this house may never know hunger.

Salt! That life may always have flavor.

And wine! That joy and prosperity may reign forever.”

They have named the treasures in the simple things,

The staples of food and drink and flavor.

May we also know the true treasures that are right before our eyes

Blessing our lives each and every day.

You have been reminded of these things here in this time together,

now go and do likewise in the world,

for it IS “a wonderful life!”

Choral Benediction

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Then let us go to serve in peace,

The gospel to proclaim.

God's Spirit has empowered us;

We go in Jesus' name.

Postlude

Fairest Lord Jesus

Volkslieder

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.*

*2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.*

*3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*

*4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

**WITH A GRATEFUL HEART AND JOYFUL SONG
(Choir Anthem)**

*Every morning when I rise,
Once again I realize
The wonder of the love
my Savior has for me.
Then I bow my head to pray,
Asking Him to guide my way
And help me to follow where He leads.
With a grateful heart,
I will give my thanks to the Lord.
I will praise His name forevermore.
With a joyful song, I will sing
Glory to my King,
And walk in the light of the Lord.
Anywhere life takes me,
I will never fear.
Christ will not forsake me.
He always will be near.
Since I heard him call my name,
Life has never been the same,
For now I know the plan my Savior has for me.
He will show me how to care,
Give me grace and love to share,
And help me to serve Him faithfully!
With a grateful heart, I will give my thanks to the Lord.
I will praise His name forevermore.
With a joyful song, I will sing
Glory to my King,
And walk in the light of the Lord.
With a grateful, loving spirit,
I'll sing a joyful song
As I walk in the light of the Lord!*

THIS IS A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

*This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.*

*3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.*

*4 Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.*

*5 In faith we'll gather round the table
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.*