



July 30, 2023
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Bless This Earth

Calkins

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

Damon Moore

People of God, let us gather to worship and praise God's name.

I give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart. I will glorify your name forever!

For great is your steadfast love for me.

You delivered my soul from the depths.

God says, "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

*Opening Prayer

Damon Moore

How great is your name, Lord our God, through all the earth! Your majesty is praised above the heavens. When we see the vastness of space, all of your making, the galaxies, and stars you have arranged, we are amazed that you keep us in mind, that you care for us humans. Yet, you have made us in your image; you have caused Jesus Christ to appear among us, and we are crowned with glory and honor because of his suffering and death. You have put all things under his feet.

We thank you, God, for bringing humankind to its destined greatness through Jesus Christ. How great is your name, Lord our God, through all the earth! Glory to you forever! Amen

*** Hymn**

How Great Thou Art

UMH 77

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***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Damon Moore

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace.
The peace of God is here... to stay.

Children's Time

VBS Moment

Heather Robert

Ministry of Music

Would I Know You

Will McCann

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Damon Moore

Harvesting God, as we listen to your Word, by your Holy Spirit lead our hearts in the way everlasting. Amen

Old Testament Reading

Damon Moore

Isaiah 25:6-9 NLT

⁶ In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven's Armies
will spread a wonderful feast
for all the people of the world.
It will be a delicious banquet
with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.
⁷ There he will remove the cloud of gloom,
the shadow of death that hangs over the earth.
⁸ He will swallow up death forever!
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears.
He will remove forever all insults and mockery
against his land and people.
The Lord has spoken!

⁹ In that day the people will proclaim,
"This is our God!
We trusted in him, and he saved us!
This is the Lord, in whom we trusted.
Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!"

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:12-23 NLT

¹² Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. ¹³ Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

Parable of the Great Feast

¹⁵ Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!"

¹⁶ Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. ¹⁷ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' ¹⁸ But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' ²⁰ Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹ "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' ²³ So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.'

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

He Touched Me

UMH 367

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Sermon

Worthwhile Invitations

Steve Evick

Morning Prayer

Tom Gatewood

The Lord's Prayer

Tom Gatewood

Offertory Invitation

Damon Moore

Friends, Holy Scripture tells us that all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. Given such a divine affirmation, let us give offerings of thanksgiving! Amen

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Guide Us, Lord

Nordman

**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*

Damon Moore

Loving and ever-present God, receive these tithes and offerings, our worship, and our lives to your service; in Jesus' name. Amen

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

*** Closing Hymn**

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

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Benediction

Steve Evick

Go forth as beloved children of God, living in hope and confident in God's promises. Amen

Choral Benediction

Go, Ye, Go Ye Into the World

Go ye, go ye into the world,

And tell the story to all believers.

Go ye make disciples of all the nations.

Go ye, go ye now, and I will be with you there!

Postlude

Jubilate Deo

Wetherhill

HOW GREAT THOU ART

*O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the *worlds thy hand have made,
I see the stars, I hear the *rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain:

***Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!***

*2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]*

*3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]*

*4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! [Refrain]*

HE TOUCHED ME

*Shackled by a heavy burden,
Neath a load of guilt and shame,
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.*

Refrain

***He touched me, O he touched me,
And O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.***

*Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since he cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise him;
I'll shout it while eternity rolls. (Refrain)*

BLESSED ASSURANCE

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain:

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.***

*2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

(Refrain)

*3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

(Refrain)