



October 22, 2023
Twentyfirst Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Larry

Prelude

Happy Are They Who Walk with the Lord

Gawthrop

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**

Patti Barnes

We gather today to remember and proclaim that we are God's people.

We are God's people! God's presence is among us!

Like Moses, we seek an encounter with God's goodness.

God, show us your goodness that we may glorify you in all that we do.

God's goodness passes by us every day in the gracious gifts of creation and in the faces of our neighbors.

God, help us notice your goodness in everything and everyone that we meet.

When we notice God's goodness all around us, we recognize this truth: all things are God's.

Let us give to God the things that are God's! Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

Patti Barnes

O Lord our God,

you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts on us
than we are to seek them,

and are willing to give more than we desire or deserve.

Help us so to seek that we may truly find,

so to ask that we may joyfully receive,
so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*** Hymn**

This is the Day

UMH 657

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Sung Twice

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Patti Barnes

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

Ministry of Music

Harmony Preschool

Children's Time

Pastor Larry

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Patti Barnes

God, our source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen!

1 John 2:28-3:10

²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

³ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,^[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because

the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

UMH 191

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Sermon

"Children of God"

Pastor Larry

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God who loves us and wants us to love each other,

This is our God.

We believe in Jesus who cared about children and held them in his arms. He wanted a world where everyone could live together in peace.

This is Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who keeps working with us until everything is good and true.

This is the Holy Spirit.

We can be the Church which reminds people of God because we love each other.

This we believe. Amen.

Morning Prayer

Pastor Larry

Offertory Invitation

Patti Barnes

Scripture praises the "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." We give now not for the flash or the fame but in quiet, steadfast hope that every dollar might serve to build up the body of Christ in this congregation, and the beloved community in the world. Your offerings matter. Make them with confidence.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Meditation

Morrison

**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*

Patti Barnes

Lord, we dedicate our all to you; not just the money that we no longer call ours, but our thoughts, our plans, our time, our dreams, our days. It is all yours, God. It always was. Help us to rejoice in that. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

*** Closing Hymn**

I Love to Tell the Story

UMH 156

Benediction

Pastor Larry

Choral Benediction

Benediction Hymn

**Now may the Lord bless you and keep you
and make his face to shine upon you;
and may God lift his countenance upon you
and give you blessed peace for now and evermore.**

Postlude

As We Go

Johnson

THIS IS THE DAY

*This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord hath made,
that the Lord hath made.*

*Let us rejoice,
let us rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord hath made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord hath made.*

*This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord hath made,
that the Lord hath made.
Let us rejoice,
let us rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord hath made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord hath made.*

JESUS LOVES ME

*Jesus loves Me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
They are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain:

***Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.***

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, "Let them come to me." **Refrain***

*Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live. **Refrain***

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

*I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.*

Refrain:

***I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.***

*2. I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee. [Refrain]*

*3. I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]*

*4. I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,*

*'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long. **[Refrain]***