



**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 31, 2025**

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Sabbath*

Stairs

*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**

Susan Whitman

There are so many directions in which we are being pulled.

**We struggle and hope that we have chosen the right way.**

Some of these paths are falsely enticing and others dangerous.

**How can we know what to do?**

Look to Jesus! He will be your guide and Holy Spirit will guard your life.

**I am going to follow Jesus. He is the example of compassion, healing and kindness.**

**Opening Prayer**

Susan Whitman

Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our trust in your eternal love. Enable us to be more effective in our witness to that love by word and deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service. These things we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

**Hymn**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH 577

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**Passing the Peace of Christ**

Susan Whitman

**Children's Message**

Pastor Larry

**Ministry of Music**

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Carrie Glover

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

**O Lord, it is our prayer  
that your Spirit will come down  
and enlighten our hearts  
so that your Word is truly  
a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path.  
Through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

*Matthew 16:21-28*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[4]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

<sup>28</sup> "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**Response to the Word**

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn**

*Lift High the Cross*

UMH 159

**Sermon**

*Finding by Losing*

Pastor Larry

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;\*  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

UMH 70

**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. Amen. Amen.**

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Larry

**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.**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Susan Whitman

**As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and  
offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our  
morning offering.**

## **Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Offertory*

*Chorus of the Blessed Spirits*

vonGluck

*\*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*

Susan Whitman

**Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.**

## **GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

**\*Hymn**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

UMH 160

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**\*Benediction**

Pastor Larry

**\*Choral Benediction**

*Shalom to You*

UMH 666

***Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.***

***May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.***

***In all your living and through your loving,***

***Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

**Postlude**

*The Church's One Foundation*

Wesley

## ***GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY***

*God of grace and God of glory,  
on the people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story,  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.*

*2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.*

*3 Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.*

## LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

### *Refrain:*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*1 Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God in unity combine. [Refrain]*

*2 Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]*

*3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]*

*4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]*

## REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart;  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
your glorious banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.*

***Refrain:***  
***Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

*2. Your clear hosannas raise,  
and alleluias loud;  
whilst answering echoes upward float,  
like wreaths of incense cloud. [Refrain]*

*3. Yes, on through life's long path,  
still chanting as ye go;  
from youth to age, by night and day,  
in gladness and in woe. [Refrain]*

*4. At last the march shall end;  
the wearied ones shall rest;  
the pilgrims find their heavenly home,  
Jerusalem the blest. [Refrain]*

*5. Praise God who reigns on high,  
the Lord whom we adore,  
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
one God forevermore. [Refrain]*