



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Smith

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

Carolyn Masters

Search for the Lord each day.

God waits where we least expect it.

Search for the balm in Gilead.

God brings healers in our need.

Cry out to the Lord in times of distress.

God comes speedily to meet us.

Come! Worship the One who hears our pleas.

Opening Prayer

Carolyn Masters

Great Healer, be our balm of Gilead,
for we ache to be made whole.

Come to us in times of trial
and heal our sin-sick souls.

Amid those who prey on your little ones,
help us live faithfully as children of light.

May we be found faithful in a little,
that you may entrust us with much. **Amen.**

Hymn*Lord of the Dance*

UMH 261

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Carolyn Masters

Christ's peace is found in hearts that are turned to God. Let us find deep and abiding peace, as we share a moment of grace with one another.

Children's Message

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music*He Shall Come Down Like the Rain*

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**Prayer for Understanding***All Praying*

O God, fill us with your Spirit and humble our hearts so that we can hear your Word. Amen.

Scripture Reading*Matthew 4:18-22*

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **19** "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." **20** At once they left their nets and followed him. **21** Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, **22** and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Response to the Word

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn*There is a Balm in Gilead*

UMH 375

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Sermon*Cultivating Spiritual Maturity: Community*

Pastor Larry

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

**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

Carolyn Masters

Whether we have much or only a little, we can share our daily bread so that all will be fed. As we have received, so now we give, in the vineyard of the Lord, our tithes and offerings.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

In Autumn

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*

Carolyn Masters

**You call us to be wise with our riches, O God,
that your realm may be blessed
for the benefit of all.
May we be found faithful in a little,
that you may entrust us to be faithful in much.
We offer you these gifts
in gratitude for your love.
May they bring your healing and light
to those who need the balm of Gilead. Amen.**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn**

Forward Through the Ages

UMH 555

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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

Sing to the Lord

Smith

LORD OF THE DANCE

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

[Refrain:]

***Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

*2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came to me and the dance went on. (Refrain)*

*3 I danced on the sabbath when I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die. (Refrain)*

*4 I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. (Refrain)*

*5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. (Refrain)*

THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD

Refrain:

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

1 Some times I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

(Refrain)

2 Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend,
and if you look for knowledge
he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

(Refrain)

3 If you can't preach like Peter,
if you can't pray like Paul,
just tell the love of Jesus,
and say he died for all.

(Refrain)

FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES

Forward through the ages,
in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits
at the call divine;
gifts in differing measure,
hearts of one accord,
manifold the service,
one the sure reward.

Refrain:

**Forward through the ages,
in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits
at the call divine.**

2. Wider grows the kingdom,
reign of love and light;
for it we must labor,
till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it,
martyrs testified,
poets sung its glory,
heroes for it died. **[Refrain]**

3. Not alone we conquer,
not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph
lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose
in one living whole,
move we on together
to the shining goal. **[Refrain]**