

West Market Street United Methodist Church



September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m.

Silent Meditation

Leading as followers might seem like a contradiction, but, in fact, this is what worship forms us to do.

Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts Ministries

GATHERING

PRELUDE:

“Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BuxWV 139”

Deitrich Buxtehude

ENTRANCE

† **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** No. 96

“Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above”

AMSTERDAM

1. Praise the Lord who reigns above and keeps his court below; praise the holy God of love and all his greatness show; praise him for his noble deeds, praise him for his matchless power; him from whom all good proceeds let earth and heaven adore.
2. Celebrate th’eternal God with harp and psaltery, timbrels soft and cymbals loud in this high praise agree; praise with every tuneful string; all the reach of heavenly art, all the powers of music bring, the music of the heart.
3. God, in whom they move and live, let every creature sing, glory to their Maker give, and homage to their King. Hallowed be thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored; praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1743

† **WELCOME**

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Family of God, on our journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

Because God is with us, we can love boldly.

God is with us, and God joins us with one another as the Body of Christ.

Because God draws us together, we can serve joyfully.

Through God, we work for the flourishing of self, neighbor, and all creation.

Because God holds us together, we can lead courageously.

Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

We come to worship God by boldly loving, joyfully serving, and courageously leading, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world.

Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026

† COLLECT

Holy One of mystery and power ...give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of evil at work in our lives and in our world. Amen.

Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press.

† GLORIA PATRI: No. 70

MEINEKE

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.

Text: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th century

PROCLAMATION

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 14:19-21 (NRSV)

Reader: Beth Dunbar

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 6:10–18 (NRSV)

Reader: Beth Dunbar

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

THE PSALTER LESSON: Psalm 114 (UMH #835)

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel God's dominion.
The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back.
The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.
What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?
O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?
Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,
who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

† THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18:21-22 (NRSV)

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

The Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

SERMON:

“Lead Courageously”

The Rev. Dr. Otto D. Harris III

RESPONSE

† RESPONSIVE HYMN: No. 133 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

SHOWALTER

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. **REFRAIN:** Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. **REFRAIN**
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. **REFRAIN**

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE: *We invite you to turn to the people around you and share a sign of Christ's peace.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING TO GOD THROUGH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

For your convenience, you can give to West Market Street UMC by text message. Text WMC to 73256.

Follow the prompts to complete your giving.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Whoever Would Be Great Among You”

Ronald A. Nelson

Whoever would be great among you, must become your servant, and whoever would be great among you, must be a slave to all. For the Son of Man came not to be served, came not to be served, but to serve. And to give his life, to give his life as a ransom for many.

Text: Based on Matthew 20:26-28; revised by Ronald Nelson © 1971 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-730713

† DOXOLOGY: No. 94 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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!

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted Gilbert H. Viera, 1978 © 1989 United Methodist Publishing House. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-730713

SENDING FORTH

† RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 577 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy 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, (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, (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, (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, (we adore) serving thee whom we adore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “God of Grace”

setting by Paul Manz

Our Service of Worship is ended. Let our worship through service begin.

† Please stand as you are able.

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The flowers for today’s service are given to the glory of God in memory of Mike Hogewood on his birthday by his family.