# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
# SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
# 11:00 AM




As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH** Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess

**RECOGNITION OF 15 YEARS SERVICE - CLARE CARTER**

**PRELUDE** *Amazing Grace* arr. Diane Bish

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Katy Sabin

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!
Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
**Blessed be the name of the Lord**
**from this time on and forevermore.**
From the rising of the sun to its setting
The name of the Lord is to be praised.
**Praise the Lord!**

***HYMN 409** *God Is Here!* ABBOT'S LEIGH

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore. *(continued next page)*

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious and merciful God,**
**You have entrusted us with so much—**
**time, talents, treasures,**
**relationships and responsibilities.**
**Yet we confess that we often**
**squander what you have given.**
**Forgive us for the ways we have been**
**dishonest and unfaithful**
**with what is not truly ours.**
**Teach us to be faithful in the small things**
**so that we may be trusted**
**with greater things in your kingdom.**

*(a moment for silent reflection)*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
**Thanks be to God.**

***SONG OF JOY 611** (v. 1) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
**And also with you.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**ANTHEM** *Psalm 121* John Ness Beck
(The Chancel Choir)

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord shall shade thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from evil; he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in
from this time forth, and even for evermore.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

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**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 16:1-9

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Desperate Measures* Rev. Boggess

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** Katy Sabin

**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 debts,**
**as we forgive our debtors:**
**and lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom and the power,**
**and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** *Be Thou My Vision* Irish Hymn
(Carrie Mills, Matt Jarvis, Steven Phillips)

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Katy Sabin

**We declare that Jesus is Lord.**
**His resurrection is a decisive victory**
**over the powers that deform and destroy human life.**
**His lordship is hidden.**
**The world appears to be dominated by people and systems**
**that do not acknowledge his rule.**
**But his lordship is real.**
**It demands our loyalty and sets us free**
**from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.**

## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 708** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* SCHMANN

We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our firstfruits give.

The captive to release,
to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace:
it is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be;
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

**POSTLUDE** *Praise God From Whom Blessings Flow* arr. Vaughan Williams

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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