



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 11:00 AM

As a courtesy
to others, please
silence your phone.

based on
Psalm 114:1-8

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE

Steal Away

arr. Robert Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Largo

We worship the Lord whose presence makes a way and whose power saves.

**The mountains tremble and the seas flee
before the God of all creation.**

We stand in awe of the Lord, our Rock and Redeemer.

**We worship the God who turns deserts into springs
and brings life from barren places.**

*HYMN 409 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

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 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.

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!

* Please rise in body
or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,
you have forgiven us far more than we could ever repay,
yet we confess that we are often slow to forgive others.
We cling to resentments, keep record of wrongs,
and withhold the mercy that we ourselves have received.
Forgive us for our hard hearts.
Fill us with gratitude for your boundless mercy,
that our lives may reflect your compassion and
our relationships bear witness to your reconciling love.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

***SONG OF JOY 582** (v. 1) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

MOMENT FOR DISIPLESHIP

Maria Robayo

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

I Choose Love
(The Chancel Choir)

Mark A. Miller
words by Lindy Thompson

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

This anthem,
written in response
to the tragic events
that occurred
at Emmanuel
African Methodist
Episcopal Church in
Charleston, South
Carolina in 2015, is
a testament to the
power of love and
forgiveness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Holding On and Letting Go

Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Steve Largo

**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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
(Carrie Mills, Matt Jarvis, Steven Phillips)

Phillips

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Steve Largo

**Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other's good,
to share what we have.**

**We are obligated to speak the truth in love,
to listen with patience and openness,
to love our enemies,
to accept the risk and pain which love involves.**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Steven Phillips

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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