SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 28, 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

PRELUDE *Steal Away* Spiritual/arr. Robert Powell

Psalm 146

CALL TO WORSHIP Kim Whitford

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

***HYMN 403** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* UNSER HERRSCHER

Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace.

Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heaven on earth must be;
to my heart O enter thou;
let it be thy temple now.

Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee;
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee,
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,
You have shown us what is good and
called us to live with compassion and justice.
Yet we confess that, like the rich man,
we often close our eyes to the suffering at our gates.
We feast while others hunger.
We pass by the wounded and the weary,
numb to their cries, blind to their humanity.
Forgive us, Lord, for our indifference and our hardened hearts.
Break through our selfishness with the light of your truth.
Open our hearts to love as you love,
and give us courage to act with
justice, generosity, and grace.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

***SONG OF JOY 804** (v. 1) *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* MARION

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Let Your Faith Be Stronger Than Your Fear* Tom Trenney
(The Chancel Choir with Matt Jarvis, solo)

In the deserts of your life I'll not desert you.
I will make a way beside a flowing stream.
Through the valley, do not fear, for I am with you;
My rod and staff do comfort and redeem.

In the darkness of your life I will not leave you.
In the shadow I'm your light, your lamp, your sun.
I will be the star that shines above to guide you,
A light unto your path to lead you on.

Refrain
Do not be afraid, I go before you.
Do not be afraid, I am by your side.
Be still and know that I am with you.
Let your faith be stronger than your fear.

When you're weary, when you're faint, I will be with you.
I will raise you up to soar on eagle's wings.
I will be the joy that seeks you through your sorrow.
Unending hope my resurrection brings.

When the storms of life assail I will uphold you.
I will strengthen you; I'll be the hope you need.
Though the waters rage and foam, fear not, I'm with you.
I am the way, the truth, the life indeed! (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 954

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 16:13-15, 19-31

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Before It's Too Late* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Kim Whitford

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 *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* arr. Paul Manz

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Kim Whitford

The Word which was with God from the beginning
was embodied in Jesus Christ.
We hold that what God says to us and does for us
centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord
as he is remembered, known, and expected.
In Christ, God's Word of acceptance takes flesh:
by grace through faith *(continued next page)*

we are set right with God,
adopted as children of God,
not because of anything we have done,
but because of what Christ has done.
In Christ, God's Word of demand is lived out:
to love God and neighbor as he did
is what God requires of us.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 761** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on *For All the Saints* 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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