



## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*Gathering as God's people to be inspired to  
live as the church, the Body of Christ*

+ Those who are able are invited to stand.

UMH-United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

You are invited to respond with the **Boldface** responses.

### THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

Each day I try my best to start out on my knees. I remind myself to tackle the day with Christ first—that I am the glove, and He is the hand; I try to listen and be still; then I read a little bit of the Bible, say thanks for all the good, and ask for help with all ahead. It takes me ten minutes or less, but it is where I get my soul fuel for the day and tasks ahead.

Wherever I am in the world, I also know that one of my closest friends, Jim, will be doing the same thing. He, like me, is a busy guy, but he never misses a day. We do this together every single day, Christmas included. And each year, we commit to going again. We read the same verses and then send each other an email with any thoughts, struggles, and feelings. This brotherhood is a source of lasting strength for us both. Accountability, friendship, and growth all belong together. As the Proverbs say, ***“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”*** (27:17 NLT)

We're not wired to live in isolation. We are designed to live in communities where love and friendship flow freely, where people of peace try to strengthen and support each other every day. This is how we grow and build strong foundations in our lives: through honest friendships, accountability, challenge, shared courage, and enduring commitment. -*Soul Fuel*, p. 148.

***Thanks be to God! Welcome to Worship!***

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.”*

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *UMH 405*  
*Seek Ye First, v. 1*

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

+CALL TO WORSHIP  
Come together, everyone and bring your stories and sing your songs and share in the Spirit. Let your feelings paint the sky like a rainbow of banners and balloons. Let your thoughts fill the air and come to life in bodies of sound ringing out like a song to which the whole world will be dancing. And let even the silence speak with a thousand voices in tribute to our loving, living God and in celebration of our lives—the priceless gift God has given us.

+INVOCATION *Responsively*  
God of spirit and flesh, God of heaven and earth, God of fruit and grain, we spread our wings in flight toward you. We stretch our arms in need of you. We feed ourselves with gifts from you. We thank you for your love poured out as we sense your Spirit shining in the sunlight, sailing in the summer wind, and singing in the souls of each one gathered here.

**Recreate us in your image as we encounter you today, that our lives might ignite a love to light the world where heavy hearts shiver in the dark cold. Let your presence pressing through us fill the world with joy we pray. Amen.**

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION *UMH 98*  
*To God Be the Glory*

### THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *1 Timothy 2:1-7*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

The confession of our sin before God and one another reminds us that as individual believers and as a community of faith, we do not stray or turn from the ways of love and justice. We believe that if we confess, we shall be forgiven and freed from the burden of guilt and empowered to carry on the ministry of Jesus. Church, with confidence in the mercy of God, let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*  
Holy God, we do not understand why you keep on loving us. We hurt our loved ones. We turn our backs on need. We seek revenge for petty wrongs in petty ways.

**We do not understand why you keep on loving us. Yet even as we speak these words, we know your presence and your love. We are sorry, O God, for we know that sins against one another are sins against you. Make us strong and tender, we pray, that we may live more as you would have us live.**

#### PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

##### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In our journey following Jesus, God is a sure and constant presence, always inviting commitment. God holds before us priorities that come into view from the Word, God enlightens us when our understandings are dim, God calls us to embody belief in deed, God strengthens us in spirit and truth. It is so that we are loved and forgiven by God. **Amen.**

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER *Unison*

**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.**

---

## THE CHURCH CELEBRATES

BAPTISM, REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM, AND  
CONFIRMATION OF FAITH OF NEW MEMBERS

**BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION:** *Hannah Lee Boyles*

**REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION**

*Victoria Ann Adams    Ava Gabrielle Lantz*

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME *Responsively*  
Members of the household of God, I commend these  
persons to your love and care. Do all in your power  
to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and  
perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already  
given you and we welcome you in Christian love.  
As members together with you in the body of  
Christ and in this congregation of The United  
Methodist Church, we renew our covenant  
faithfully to participate in the ministries of the  
church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts,  
our service, and our witness, that in everything  
God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal  
glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by  
the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in  
grace and peace.

THE RESPONSE *UMH 399*

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

*As we sing the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse, the Little People are  
invited to join Steve at the Chancel for Wiggletime.*

---

## THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

WIGGLETIME

*After Wiggletime the Children are invited to join the  
Leaders in Linger Hall and move to the Children's  
Classroom for CHILDREN'S CHURCH.*

ANTHEM *Chancel Choir*  
*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

THE WORD

SERMON *Rev. Steven Meadows*

---

**THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS**

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 88*  
*Maker, in Whom We Live*

+SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."*

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

---

**...and the worship continues.**

