



# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

TO SHINE WITH  
THE LIGHT OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
SO THAT  
OTHERS WILL  
KNOW AND  
LOVE HIM

+ 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.

## MOMENTS OF CENTERING

O Christ, you take upon yourself all our burdens so  
that freed of all that weighs us down, we can  
constantly begin anew to walk with lightened step,  
from worry towards trusting,  
from the shadows toward the clear flowing water,  
from our own will towards  
the vision of the coming Kingdom.  
And then we know, though we had hardly dared to  
hope it, that you offer to make every human being  
a reflection of your face.

**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 143*  
*On Eagle's Wings*

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear  
you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like  
the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

+CALL TO WORSHIP                      *Responsively*  
Welcome to worship today. Bring your joys and  
burdens to the Lord.  
**For God hears the cries of our hearts and heals our  
wounded souls.**

Remember the wondrous deeds that God continues to  
perform in your life.  
**Let us be thankful for all the mercies and  
tenderness that God offers to us.**

Come, praise the Lord with all your heart and soul.  
**Let our voices raise in a powerful concert of praise  
and thanksgiving.**

+INVOCATION  
Lord, we want to follow you whoever you lead.  
Reach out to us this day, stirring our souls and spirits  
with the winds of your power that we may faithfully  
be your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus' Name.  
**Amen.**

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION                      *UMH 154*  
*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, vv. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6*

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE EPISTLE LESSON                      *Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION                      *Responsively*  
Merciful Lord, we know that you want the best for us.  
It must really disappoint you when we fail to be the  
kind of devoted followers that you need. You know of  
the needs in this world and the capability that we have  
of meeting those needs and bringing words of hope  
and healing through actions of compassion and  
justice. Yet we are hesitant in our commitment to you

and to ministries of peace. We want good things to  
happen. We just aren't sure that we are up to the tasks  
you set before us.  
**Forgive us when we so easily doubt your call, your  
presence, and your abiding love. Lift us up from  
lives of self-pity and self-centeredness and bring us  
to you with hearts filled with joy, praising you for  
opportunities to witness to your love in our service  
to your people. Heal us and restore us, for we ask  
this in Jesus' Name.**

## PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS                      *Responsively*  
Although following Jesus is difficult, you can be  
assured that God is always with you, bringing you  
encouragement, strength, and peace. Rise up and  
follow the one who offers his life for you.  
**Amen.**

RESPONSE                                      *UMH 389*  
*Freely, Freely*

## THE CHURCH SHARES

OFFERTORY INVITATION and PRAYER  
It started thousands of years ago, when women shared  
their experience of the risen Christ with others in their  
circle. They in turn shared their experiences, and so  
on and so on, until here we are today. Now it is our  
turn. Let us share what Jesus' resurrection means to  
us and give out of gratitude to enable the sharing to  
continue through this church.  
**Dear God, as we make this offering, we ask that  
your Spirit transform it and us and all people, that  
your love may be revealed as we use these gifts to  
invite people into the story of Jesus. We do this and  
ask this in the name of the risen one. Amen.**

+DOXOLOGY UMH 94  
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 up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD  
THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME UMH 277  
*Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, v. 1*  
Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

WIGGLETIME  
The children are invited to the  
Chancel for Wiggletime,  
and then, to Children's Church

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER UMH 496  
*Sweet Hour of Prayer, v. 3*  
Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings  
shall my petition bear to him whose truth and  
faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless. And  
since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and  
trust his grace, I'll cast on him my every care, and  
wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Responsively  
*[A time of silence is kept after each intercession.]*  
God of the angels and the saints in light, head of the  
church universal and apostolic, midwife of the new  
creation, hear us as we pray for the coming of your  
kingdom. . . . *[silent prayer]*

Cleanse the world of separation and conflict,  
arrogance and self-centeredness caused by human  
sin. Receive the body of the earth, and the bodies of

your children into your holy presence. Dwell with us  
and be our light. Hear us as we pray for the healing  
of the nations. . . . *[silent prayer]*

Silence the wars and rumors of terror that plague the  
human family. Guide leaders of the world to the  
river and the tree of life. May the fruits of the Spirit  
feed the people of the earth. Hear us as we pray for  
all who suffer. . . . *[silent prayer]*

Lift the yoke of human pain from the sick, the  
hungry, and the grieving. Move the hearts of your  
people to serve all who are in need. Hear us as we  
pray for the Church. . . . *[silent prayer]*

Pour a renewed assurance of the Holy Spirit upon  
the shoulders of the people of God. Let the Spirit  
shine in the eyes of the body of Christ. With a  
mighty voice, let the church proclaim, "Justice!"  
With a tender kiss, let her pray, "Mercy."  
With the image of the cross, let her say,  
"Peace be with you," in the name of the Lord Jesus  
Christ who taught us to pray...

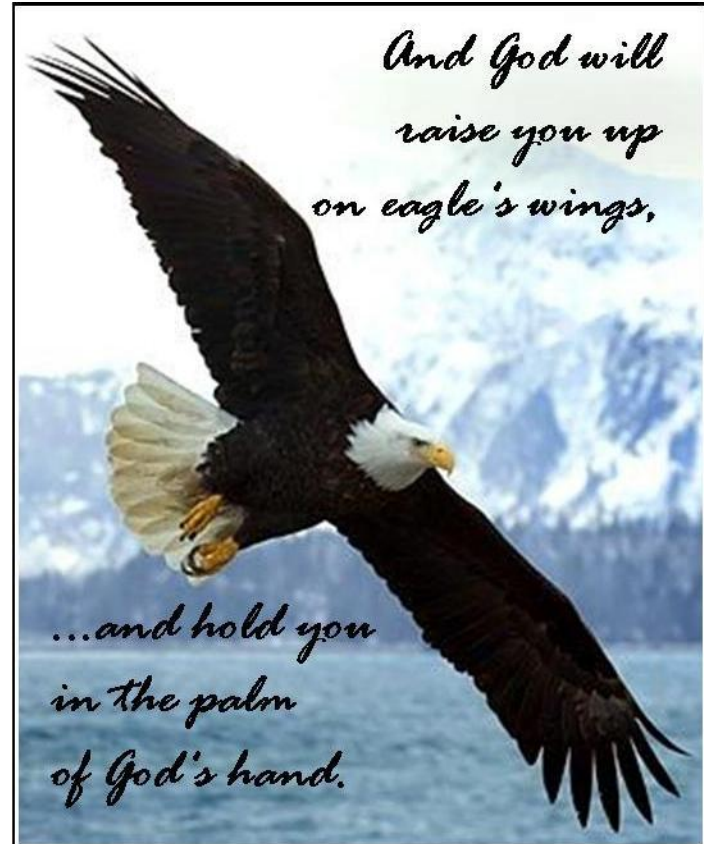
THE LORD'S PRAYER Unison  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy  
kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine  
is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE WORD IN MUSIC Chancel Choir  
SERMON Rev. Steven Meadows

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH 529  
*How Firm a Foundation*  
  
+BENEDICTION Pastor  
  
+POSTLUDE Dan Martin

...and the worship continues.





**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

Corner of Latham and S. Florida Streets  
52 S. Florida Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

304-472-9494 [firstchurch26201@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch26201@gmail.com)  
[www.firstchurchum.com](http://www.firstchurchum.com)  
Rev. Steven Meadows, pastor

**First Church Welcomes You to Worship!**