



+ **Those who are able are invited to stand.**
UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS – The Faith We Sing
You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

A magnetic power invisible and far away draws the
compass needle toward the north,
pointing it in a reliably consistent direction.
An attractive spray of rainbow draws our eyes toward a
beautiful intrusion of colors tinting the sky.
An inviting smell of cookies baking in the oven draws
memories toward joyous kitchen moments,
and pantry excursions.
A potent love – magnetic, attractive, inviting – has
drawn us toward this place. It is here we worship the
loving God who fills life with direction, beauty, and joy.
We worship the God who draws us near.
Thanks be to God! Welcome to worship!

THE CHURCH GATHERS IN WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Carolyn Brown*

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

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *FWS 2103*

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding, v. 1
**We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high
and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.**
**Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not
in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign
both clear and plain.**

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
God says, "I am the fountain of living water. I will feed
you with the finest of wheat, with honey from the rock.
You who have wandered far from me, return to me,
return to me. You who have gathered close, stay near,
stay near. I am the fountain of living water."
You are our strength.
You are our helper.
You are our life.
You are our joy!

+INVOCATION *Responsively*
This morning, O God, your voice sounds into our lives
again. We are grateful to hear your call, for on many
mornings we hear other voices—voices urging us to
care only about ourselves; voices urging us to serve
other gods: our work, our bank accounts, our egos, our
peer groups, our ideologies.
By the end of the week, we feel trapped in our anxiety,
our work, our spending, our need for control, and our
excuses. And then we hear your voice again, calling us
to your healing care, to your spacious freedom, to your
giving humility.
We come to rest and be fed.
Call us to your freeing love and saving grace again.
Feed us now, God of our strength.
Amen.

+HYMN OF CELEBRATION *UMH 57*
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, vv. 1-5

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Leader*
God invites us to mutual love. But to find that mutuality,
we must release our need for honor, our desire for
privilege. In humility let us seek forgiveness, trusting in
the promises of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Unison*
**Merciful God, we find it hard to see in ourselves
the trappings our society so admires and serves—
power, wealth, and access that forget mutual love.**
**We fail to see our allegiance to these dangerous
gods—rushing for places of honor, scorning the
humble and lowly, supporting systems that survive
on greed and abuse.**
**Forgive us when we are fearful that there is not
enough.**
Remind us that you are enough.
Teach us your generosity.
Teach us your world-changing humility.
Teach us your expansive love.
Transform us and heal our lives.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *Responsively*
You have lifted us and dusted us off, O Lord. You have
claimed us as your own. Let us celebrate your love for
us in lives of service to you and to others; for you are
with us always.
Thanks be to God.

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 SOLO *Renee Warner*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS WITH GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We sing praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves — our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness— to the Lord that they be used to further God’s dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you’re able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Responsively

Faithful and Unchanging God, in a world that shifts and sways, you remain our firm foundation. You have called us into a life of mutual love, teaching us to serve, to welcome, and to give with generous hearts. Bless the gifts we offer, that they may extend your love to those who are hungry, who search for peace, and who long for hope.

Shape us into a people whose generosity reflects your own, that through our giving, we may proclaim your unshakable kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, our constant and faithful guide. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Carolyn Brown

+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 uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME

FWS 2074

Shout to the Lord

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll

love you, forever I'll stand. Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

WIGGLETIME *...Then, it's off to Children's Church*

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

Eva Atha, Director

SERMON

Rev. M. Steven Meadows

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO

SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF PRAISE

FWS 2130

The Summons

+SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Acolytes

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

+BENEDICTION

Pastor

In the face of all our realities:

We are the people who heal each other, who grow strong together, who name the truth, who know what it means to live in community, moving toward a new heaven and a new earth.

Children of God, go from this place with the abundant blessings of the power of the love of God our Creator, the company of Jesus Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

+POSTLUDE

Carolyn Brown

...and the worship continues.



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31 August 2025
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