

# The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 11:00 AM | JULY 23, 2023

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin  
Senior Minister

## MUSIC OF PREPARATION

*How Long Has it Been*  
Mosie Lister, arr. John Innes & Bill Fasig  
Mr. Maxey, piano; Dr. Judy Hames, organ

Mr. Justin Maxey  
Director of Music & Organist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24* The Rev. Allyson Lawrence and **People**  
Associate Minister

LORD, you have searched me and known me.

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.**

**See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

## \*HYMN 694

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ST. GEORGE WINDSOR

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *\*catholic church*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*universal* UMH 881

## \*GLORIA PATRI

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Dr. Martin and **People**

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:  
"The peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

Romans 8:12-25

Rev. Lawrence

*So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

*<sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **CONGREGATIONAL NOTES, PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Lawrence

**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.**

## **\*HYMN 528**

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*

BETHANY

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Dr. Martin

## **OFFERTORY**

*Worthy of Worship*  
Tom Fettke

Chancel Choir

*Worthy of worship, worthy of praise, worthy of honor and glory;  
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing, worthy of all the offerings we bring.*

Refrain:

You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.  
You are worthy, worthy of wonderful; worthy of worship and praise.

Worthy of reverence, worthy of fear, worthy of love and devotion;  
Worthy of bowing and bending of knees, worthy of all of this and added to these...

Refrain

Almighty Father, Master and Lord, King of all kings and Redeemer,  
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter Friend, Savior and Source of our life without end.

Refrain

### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above,  
ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Dr. Martin

Children are invited to return to their seats following the Children's Moment.

Wonders of Worship will resume in August.

The nursery is available for infants through 3 years.

### \*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Rev. Lawrence

<sup>24</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Dr. Martin

\*BENEDICTION

Dr. Martin

*May the peace of Christ go with you wherever He may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our arms.*

\*POSTLUDE

*Final from Symphony No. 1, Op. 14*  
Louis Vierne

Mr. Maxey

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

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Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew  
Nancy Byers  
Richard Clayton  
Karen Davis  
Robbie Gray

Martha Hale  
Don Harp  
Tangie Hubbard  
Cindy Jennings  
Doris Kerlin

Jerry Light  
Claudia Rhodes  
Ingrid Shields  
Brenda Tierman  
Helen Voyles

Julie Watson  
Paul Wiley

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WEEKENDER



Online Giving: [onrealm.org/FFUMC/give](https://onrealm.org/FFUMC/give)

Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version  
Hymns: Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM; Wednesdays 7 PM;  
Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

QR Code for  
GIVING



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