

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 11:00 AM | JULY 30, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

How Great Thou Art
arr. Mark Hayes

Mr. Justin Maxey
Director of Music & Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 119:129-135

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence and **People**
Associate Minister

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

INTROIT

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing
Gordon Young

Chancel Choir

*Now let us all praise God and sing our great redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise.
Sing Alleluia!*

*All ye servants of the Lord, Praise Him forever,
Sing Jehovah's mighty power, Praise Him forever.
Sing of His righteousness, Praise Him forever.*

*So let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise.
Sing Alleluia!*

*HYMN 66

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

*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.

***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 8:26-39

Rev. Lawrence

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 544**

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

BRIDEGROOM

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Dr. Martin

OFFERTORY

An Expression of Gratitude
David Schwoebel

Chancel Choir

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. Always with joy in every prayer for you.

I thank my God for your fellowship in the gospel
From the very first day 'til now. I thank my God for you.

And I am sure that he, who began a good work in you, will bring it to completion at the day of Christ.

And this I pray that your love may abound more and more
Abound in knowledge, in judgment, that you may approve what is excellent to the glory of God.

That you may be pure and blameless, filled with the fruits of righteousness
which comes through Christ Jesus.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. Always with joy in every prayer for you.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. In every prayer with joy; I thank my God!

***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: BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

See insert

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 13:31-33, 44-52

Rev. Lawrence

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 374

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

*BENEDICTION

May the Lord (to the tune of Edelweiss - Richard Rogers)

*May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever;
grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face, full of grace forever;
may the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.*

*POSTLUDE

Toccata from Symphony No. 5, Op. 42
Charles-Marie Widor

Mr. Maxey

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

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

The flowers in the sanctuary today are presented to the glory of God
and in memory of son, Todd Chamlee, on his birthday by Judy and Wayne Reynolds.

QR Code to
CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



Online Giving: 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



FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
175 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 fayettevillefirst.com

Back to School Blessing

Calling all children of the Living God:
the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

Let us worship together, the young and the old, across every generation.

God of fresh starts and new beginnings,
we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.
In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons,
and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions,
and hopeful expectations.

There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—
of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill our minds with curiosity and joy.

For the students going back to school, be with us as we ride the bus.
Be with us as we walk.
Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.
However we get there, and whatever we wear,
bless this journey into something new.

God, our friend who is always present, be with us through it all.

For the grown-ups going back to school,
may you be with them in their work, in their homes, and in their play.

**Lord, thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders,
and for all they do to help us learn and grow.
God, our friend who is full of love, fill our hearts and bless our hands. Amen.**

We celebrate the beginning of this school year
and ask for your blessings upon the children, the educators,
and the families who support them all.

This school year, may you be curious and kind, gentle and strong, brave and loving.

*I am filled with strength.
Ephesians 6:10*

