

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 11:00 AM | September 17, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Adagio from **Sonata No. 1**
Felix Mendelssohn

Mr. Nick Bowden
Director of Music & Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103:1-6

The Rev. Charles Robinson and **People**
Minister of Nurture

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

*HYMN 66

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Robinson 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. Robinson 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.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

MINISTRY OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Ms. Rebecca Stevens

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES, PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Robinson

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 170

O How I Love Jesus

O HOW I LOVE JESUS

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Martin

OFFERTORY

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Chancel Choir

Tom Fettke

Linda Lee Johnson from Psalm 8

When I look into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;
the moon and stars suspended in space.
O, what is Man that you are mindful of Him?

You have given Man a crown of glory and honor
and have made him a little lower than the angels.
You have put Him in charge of all creation:
the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.
But what is Man? O what is Man that you are mindful of Him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name
transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God, little children praise you perfectly, and so would we.
Alleluia! The majesty and glory of your name, Alleluia!

*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 ages 4 years through 2nd grade are invited to attend Wonders of Worship in Room B225.

Children 3rd grade and older are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for the service.

The nursery is available for infants through 3 years.

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Robinson

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Martin

*HYMN 127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

*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

Fugue in G Minor BWV 578 (the 'little')
J. S. Bach

Mr. Bowden

*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
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 celebration of Mildred Fitzgerald's 106th birthday by her family.

The rosebud on the altar is presented to the glory of God
and in celebration of the birth of Cora Lily Watson on September 3, 2023. Parents and sibling are Kevin, Michelle, and Phoebe Watson. Grandparents are Steve and Sandra Watson.

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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version
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AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM; Wednesdays 7 PM;
Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

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