

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 11:00 AM | October 8, 2023

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Aria
Paul Manz

Mr. Nick Bowden
Director of Music & Organist

INTROIT

All That Hath Life and Breath
Rene' Clausen

Chancel Choir

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Associate Minister

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19

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

The heavens declare the glory of the Creator;
The firmament proclaims the handiwork of Love.
Day to day speech pours forth
And night to night knowledge is revealed.

There is no speech or words;
Their voice is not heard;
Yet their music resounds through all the earth,
And their words echo to the ends of the world.

The law of Love is perfect, reviving the soul;
The testimony of Love is sure, making wise the simple;
The precepts of Love are right, rejoicing the heart;
The authority of Love is pure, enlightening the eyes;

The spirit of Love is glorious, enduring forever;
The rites of Love are true, awakening compassion.
More to be desired are they than gold, even very fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Let the words of my mouth
And the meditation of my heart
Find favor in your Heart
O my Beloved, my strength and my joy!

Adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying 2007, Psalm 19

*HYMN 529

How Firm A Foundation

FOUNDATION

*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**

Rev. Lawrence 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.

FIRST READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Rev. Robinson

⁴Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

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 77**

How Great Thou Art

HOW GREAT THOU ART

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Rev. Lawrence

Benedictus Dominus.

Lord, we thank you for all creation,
We worship you, we honour you, we bless your Holy Name forever.

Lord, you were there before the hills and mountains,
You formed the earth, you made the sea and sky;
You are God, our strength and our salvation
Through a thousand ages passing by.

The earth is yours, and all that is within it,
You gave it life and ev'ry gift so fair;
In the wealth and wonder of creation
You were there, Lord, you were there.

Lord, we are called as servants to your kingdom
To do your work, and not to seek for rest,
Share each load, and bear each other's burdens,
That our lives may be forever blest.

Lord, you are there in gentleness and goodness,
In kindly thoughts and quiet words of prayer:
In the love which binds us all together
You are there, Lord, you are there.

Lord, who can tell the greatness of your glory,
Or who can sing the fullness of your praise?
You are God immortal and eternal;
Grant us strength to serve you all our days.

Through all the years your goodness never failed us;
In times of joy and days of dark despair
You were there, the One who never changes;
You were there, Lord; You still are there, Lord;
You will be there, Lord, you always will be there.

***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

Rev. Lawrence

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 21:33-46

Rev. Robinson

³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.' ⁴²Jesus said to them, 'Have you

never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Lawrence

*HYMN 368

My Hope Is Built

THE SOLID ROCK

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lawrence

*POSTLUDE

Psalm XIX
Benedetto Marcello

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

In Memoriam
Kenneth Underwood
September 27, 2023

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Janet Underwood and family upon the death of her husband, Kenneth Underwood, on September 27.

QR Code to
CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



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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

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GIVING



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