

# The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

13th Sunday After Pentecost | 11:00 AM | September 7, 2025

## MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Prelude from **Suite Antique**  
John Rutter

Nicholas Bowden  
Director of Music & Organist  
Cain-Oscar Burgeron, Flute  
Marty Alexander, Piano

## INTROIT

*All That Hath Life and Breath*  
René Clausen

The Chancel Choir

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Barb Combs  
Certified Lay Speaker

## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 159

*Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

## \*INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

Ms. Combs and People

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Let us pray together:*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

## \*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

Ms. Combs

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:

"The peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

The Rev. Drew West  
Minister to Families and Children

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. West

## OFFERTORY

*I'd Rather Have Jesus*  
George Beverly Shea

The Chancel Choir  
Sam Burch, Baritone  
Marty Alexander, Piano

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.  
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand;*

REFRAIN:

*Than to be the king of a vast domain  
or be held in sin's dread sway.  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything  
this world affords today.*

*I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;  
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;  
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame.  
I'd rather be true to His holy name. 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

Rev. West

*Children are invited to return to seats after Children's Moment.  
No Wonders of Worship today as we celebrate Communion together.*

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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

**Loving God,  
open our ears to hear your word  
and draw us closer to you,  
that the whole world may be one with you  
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22*

Rev. Robinson

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup> On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup> For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." <sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" <sup>6</sup> Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!"

Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

<sup>9</sup> Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." <sup>10</sup> So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*"For Such A Time As This"*

Rev. Robinson

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves  
in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten-free elements are available upon request at the chancel.

You are invited to contribute to the Benevolence Fund by leaving an offering on the chancel rail. These funds are used to assist those in need.

### \*HYMN 117

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Robinson

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*  
United Methodist Hymnal #136 (Vv. 1, 5)

Choir and **People**  
CRIMOND

***The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green he leadeth me the quiet waters by.***

***Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.***

### \*POSTLUDE

*Toccata on Foundation*  
Claude Murphree

Mr. Bowden

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in bold type.

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Please remember in your prayers:

Karen Davis  
Martha Hale  
Tangie Hubbard

Ed Richardson  
Ingrid Shields  
Dan Springer

Terry Wallace  
Dick Webb  
Paul Wiley

In Memoriam  
Sally Kay Dunham  
August 29, 2025

**Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with**

Jeffre Ray and Lea Agnew and family upon the death of their brother, John Ellington Agnew,  
on August 22.

the family of Sally Kay Dunham upon her death on August 29.



WEEKENDER

Lunch & Learn  
Children's Ministry  
Special Needs Ministry  
Noon, September 7

Discovering God's Word  
Six-week Study  
Wednesdays, 3:45 to 5 PM  
Begins September 10

Great Day of Service  
9 AM - 12:30 PM  
Saturday, September 20  
Local Ministry Projects



CONNECT

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, Wednesdays,  
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays, 7:30 AM  
NA Meeting: Thursdays 7:30 PM



GIVE

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