



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Fayetteville First UMC
14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021

GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

His Eye is on the Sparrow
Mr. Justin Maxey, Director of Music & Organist

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Associate Minister

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 15

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.
How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

***HYMN 92**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

***INVOCATION**

Dr. Martin

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Martin 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**



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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**

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:

“The peace of Christ be with you.” “And also with you.”

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Dr. Martin

FIRST READING

James 1:17-27

Rev. Lawrence

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 700**

Abide with Me

EVENTIDE

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Rev. Lawrence

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Immortal, Invisible

Eric Thiman

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

*Unresting, unfasting, and silent as night, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might.
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all life thou givest, to both great and small, in all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree and wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.*

*Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All laud we would render, O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee. Amen.*

***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.

***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.**

***GOSPEL READING**

Mark 7:1-8

Rev. Lawrence

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

*'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'*

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Life Lessons: Look in the Mirror

Dr. Martin

***HYMN 140**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

***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.*

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew
Annelle Burch
Joe Byers
Nancy Byers

Richard Clayton
Anne Free
Margaret Grainger
Martha Hale

Tangie Hubbard
Cindy Jennings
Doris Kerlin
Claudia Rhodes

Helen Voyles
Mabel Wilbanks
Brad Wilkinson



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