

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

September 3, 2023

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* (Hymn 79) - Diane Bish

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord. Call on God's holy name.

Sing praises to the Lord. Tell of God's wondrous deeds.

Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power. Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.

Give thanks to the Lord. Call on God's holy name.

Opening Hymn 64** - *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Invocation

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 105:1-6; 23-26, 45b (Old Testament p. 556/525)

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.
And the LORD made his people very fruitful,
and made them stronger than their foes,
whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.

He sent his servant Moses,
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
that they might keep his statutes
and observe his laws.

Praise the LORD!

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gloria Patri (sung)

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.

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem - *God is Our Refuge and Strength* - Allen Pote

Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:1-13 (Old Testament p. 50/48)

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon - Lessons from the Burning Bush

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Apostles Creed

We 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. We 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.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - The Lord's My Shepherd - Raymond Haan
(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew.)

Doxology**

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 Dedication

Communion/The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal p. 12)

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.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Closing Hymn 378 - Amazing Grace**

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn 666)

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude - Präludium in g minor - Dietrich Buxtehude



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given in honor of Fred and Janet Dodson' 66th anniversary, by their children.

Service Music: Summer Choir

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

The Burning Bush calls everyday ordinary people.

"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (v. 11).

Lessons from the Burning Bush

It's about the presence of God

It's about God is everywhere

It's about the voice of God

It's about the word of God

God Is and worthy to be praised

Hallelujah!

Questions for Reflection: How can I know God more and not just know about God? Who do I experience God's presence?

Questions for Discussion: What are some ways our church is holy ground? How can the church share the presence of God with others?

Memory Verse: "12 He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you" Exodus 3:12a

Readings for this week: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.

CHURCH NOTES

New Service Schedule Begins Next Sunday: Join us for the start of our new worship schedule! There will be communion at the 8:30 service, followed by Sunday School and Confirmation for all ages at 9:30. Then there will be a second service at 10:30. Children's Worship will begin again and both the Epworth and Chancel Choirs will sing at the second service. There will be a Blessing of the Backpacks, recognition of Sunday School teachers, and presentation of Bibles to our 2nd graders.

Blessing of the Backpacks: We are praying for all of our students, teachers, professors, administrators, and school staff as the new school year begins. If you are a student, teacher, or work in education, please join us for worship with your bag or backpack, for a blessing during worship on September 10 at the 10:30 service.

Rally Day Parents' Meetings: Please plan to attend the important parent meetings being held for the following groups on Rally Day (September 10):

Sunday School and Children's Worship - 9:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall

ROCK - 4:30 p.m. in Asbury Hall

Confirmation Classes: Confirmation is a two-year program to prepare youth to join the church. The classes meet during the Sunday School hour and covers material from the Methodist Confirmation curriculum on the Old and New Testament, Church History, and Methodist Beliefs. It is open to students in 7th and 8th grade or high school students interested in being confirmed. There will be a meeting for Confirmation students and their families on September 17th at 9:30am in Room 112 (across from the youth lounge).

Pizza With the Pastors: Are you new to First Church? Would you like to learn more about our church and our pastors? We would like to get to know you and help you get to know us better. Please join us for Pizza with the Pastors on September 17th following the 10:30 service. We will meet in Asbury Hall (the basement of the Education building).

Good Neighbors: Good Neighbors is requesting the following items: tea bags, canned corn, baked beans, canned fruit, ramen noodles, jelly, baby wipes and baby diapers (size 4, 5, 6) . If you are able to donate any of these, please put them in the bin outside the church library.

Blessing Box: Our box, which is truly a blessing to people in the community, is running low on supplies. We could use canned or boxed goods, ramen noodles, personal hygiene items etc. You may put them in the box or bring them in to the table next to the library.

Missions & Ministries Fair: We are blessed with passionate leaders for the missions and ministries throughout First Church. We want YOU to share your passion and get the word out about your mission and/or ministry! The Missions and Ministry Fair on September 24 will be an opportunity to tell First Church what your group does, why you do it, and how they can help. If you lead a mission or ministry, please join us on Sunday, September 10, in Asbury Hall, after second service, to discuss logistics for this event. If you can't make it and want to learn more, or if you just have questions, contact Jen LaFleur at 330-472-2357.

Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman: The Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again this fall with this 10 week study of Esther, by Beth Moore. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. You may choose between Tuesday night (7 - 9 p.m.) or Wednesday morning (10 a.m. - noon.) Please contact Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com to register. The cost of the workbook is \$15 and is due at the time of registration. The study will begin on October 3/4 and the deadline for registration is **Friday, September 15.**

Children's Christmas Items: Acts of Grace Circle is collecting Christmas gift items for children in our community. In September we will collect children's toothpaste, card games (UNO, GoFish, etc.), and bubbles. We appreciate your support in providing a better Christmas for so many children and hope that you will help us do this for our local neighbors.

Acme Receipts: Remember to bring in Acme receipts dated August 1 or later. The Cashback program is a great way to help fund the projects which will be done this summer at Work Camp!

Children's Programs: Please prayerfully consider helping with our children's programs for one or two times a month. We need people for the morning and evening activities. Contact Donna Curfman if you are able to help support our children's programs.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 3, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller, Kathy Kuzas and Donna Curfman

HOSPITALIZED:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Behrman family Jim Bailey Bill & Janet Blank Mark & Cindy Blaser Larry Brimlow Jeanette Carlson	Steve Donahue family Scott Hipkins Lee Minier Jack Nitzsche Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Christina Shaw Martha Shoults Ken Tunstall	
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Gail Kilgore and family on the death of her husband, member Keith Kilgore on 8/27.