

## Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

November 19, 2023

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### GATHERING

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

**Prelude** - *O God Beyond All Praising* - Kevin McChesney

**Introit** - *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing* - Eric Routley

#### **Call to Worship**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

For great is God's steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

**Opening Hymn 694\*\*** - *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

*Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the world is God's own field,  
fruit as praise to God we yield;  
wheat and tares together sown  
are to joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take the harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away,  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.  
Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
bring thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified,*

*in thy presence to abide;  
come, with all thine angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.*

***Invocation***

**Spirit of promise, Spirit of unity, we thank you that you are also the Spirit of renewal. Renew in the whole Church that passionate desire for the coming of your kingdom which will unite all Christians in one mission to the world. May we all grow up together into him who is our head, the Savior of the world. Amen**

***Anthem - Gentle Voice - Lee Dengler***

Far above the noise of life, There's a voice that is gently calling. "Leave behind your cares and strife. Come to me, I will give you rest. Bring your fear, and bring your pain. Bring your anger, and bring your worry." Do you hear the voice of Jesus gently calling, "Come unto me." Gentle voice, so meek and mild, Gentle words of understanding. "You are my beloved child. Come to me, I will give you rest. Bring your grief, and bring your cares. Bring you heartaches, and bring your sorrow." Do you hear the voice of Jesus Gently calling, "Come unto me"? Gentle voice so full of love, Gentle words so rich in mercy. "You are my beloved child. Come to me. I will give you rest."

**PROCLAMATION**

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

***Scripture Reading***

Psalm 133

A Song of Ascents.

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.

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.**

***Children's Anthem - This Little Light of Mine***

***God's Word for Young Disciples***

***Scripture Reading***

Nehemiah 3:5-13

Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.

Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. Next to them repairs were made by Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite—the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah—who were under the jurisdiction of the governor of the province Beyond the River. Next to them Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. Next to them Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. Next to them Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house; and next to him Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs. Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. Next to him Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate; they rebuilt it and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.

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

*Sermon - In This Together*

Pastor Jon Priebe

### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

***Hymn of Response 581\*\**** - *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

*Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who, upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose, every gift that you impart.*

*Still, your children, wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, oh, Lord, your deep compassion, healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love, your spirit, kindles still to save and make us whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving your abundant life to share.*

*Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give, that your servants, Lord in freedom, may your mercy know, and live.*

***Discipleship Moment***

***Offertory - Thanksgiving Suite: II. A Gaelic Improvisation - Charles Callahan***

***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.**

***Consecration***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us present ourselves to the Lord.

**As faithful servants in your holy Church we present ourselves to you.**

For the ministry of Prayer:

**Your house, O Lord, shall be a house of prayer. I will pray faithfully for my leaders, my fellow disciples, my neighbors, and myself.**

For the ministry of Presence:

**Here I am, Lord. I will faithfully participate in the life of the church in all ways I am able.**

For the ministry of Gifts:

**The Lord delights in a cheerful giver. I will faithfully steward all resources you give to me to care for my needs and those who depend on me, returning all that I am able for your work in this world.**

For the ministry of Service:

**Your Son, Jesus, came to serve, not to be served. I will offer my talents, skills, and time to building up and meeting the needs of others.**

For the ministry of Witness:

**I am your ambassador, O God. I will tell of your wonderful deeds by sharing with others about what you have done and are doing in my life.**

Let us present ourselves to the Lord.

**I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.**

***Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer***

**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 FWS2209\*\* - O God Beyond All Praising***

*O God beyond all praising,*

*We worship you today*

*And sing the love amazing*

*That songs cannot repay;*

*For we can only wonder*

*At every gift you send,*

*At blessings without number*

*And mercies without end:*

*We lift our hearts before you*

*And wait upon your word,*

*We honor and adore you,*

*Our great and mighty Lord.*

*Then hear, O gracious Savior,*

*Accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor  
May serve you as our king;  
And whether our tomorrows  
Be filled with good or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows  
And rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty  
And glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty  
Our sacrifice of praise.*

***Benediction and Response - May the Lord Watch Over You - Ruth Elaine Schram***

***Postlude - Thanksgiving Suite: III. Thanksgiving - Callahan***



**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given**  
in honor of Sarah Demeter's birthday, by her parents, Joe and Linda Demeter.

**Service Music:** Epworth Ringers; Bethlehem and Epworth Choirs; Chancel Choir  
**Music:** One License A-731491

**The church office** will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### ***Nehemiah Leads the Rebuilding of the Wall***

vs. 5 – the nobles of Tekoa weren't willing to chip in  
many projects in the church done by a few: the 80/20 rule

### ***In This Together***

vs. 8 – daughters and perfumers working with soldiers and craftsmen

First Church: almost 80% of our funding comes from around 80% of you!

Questions for Reflection: Reading through Nehemiah chapter 3, you can see the great variety of persons from all sorts of walks of life who worked on the wall. This miraculous project only took 56 days, perhaps in part because of how they came together for the work. Are there any kinds of persons who I might find it difficult to work next to on a God-sized project like this? Where do I typically find my ability to accept others where they are?

Question for Discussion: What is one new way you can commit to furthering the mission of Jesus through the church this year?

Memory Verse: *Nehemiah 2:20* – “The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building.”

Readings for this Week: Luke 17:11-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Ephesians 4:1-7

## **CHURCH NOTES**

**Holiday Nuts:** The nut sale is back! You may purchase them between and after services on Sundays, in the office during the week, or you may pre-order and pick them up on the Sunday of your choice. We have Deluxe Mixed, whole cashews (both at \$10/lb.) and raw pecans (\$12/lb.) You may drop your order form off at the Welcome Center. Proceeds will benefit Work Camp.

**ThankSinging Hymn Festival:** Join us TODAY at 6 p.m., as Dean Wagner and Friends present a concert of hymns to benefit Flat Rock Homes, a community for the intellectually and developmentally disabled. An offering will be taken during intermission. All are welcome to come and enjoy an evening of music.

**Acme Receipts:** Remember to turn in your Acme receipts dated from August 1. All proceeds from the Cashback program go towards Work Camp.

**OPEN M Christmas Gifts:** OPEN M is no longer doing the Giving Tree, instead they are asking for donations for children. You may make a check out to First Church with OPEN M in the memo and turn it in to the office, or you may go to [www.openm.org/christmas](http://www.openm.org/christmas) and follow the instructions.

**Christmas for Good Neighbors:** Good Neighbors has begun their holiday drive in order to provide gift bags for the children they serve. Items they are requesting are winter-themed reading books, coloring books, sticker books, and puzzles. They would like to have an such donations by early November.

**Upcoming Children's Events:** Sunday, December 3, will be our annual Advent celebration at ROCK. The children will prepare candles for Christmas Eve services, make cards for shut-ins, color mandalas and create a craft. Registration is required and will close on November 27. Then on December 10 you are invited to the Santa Brunch held during Sunday school. Both of these activities require reservations which you may make at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

**GIVE  
THANKS**  
FAMILY • FRIENDS • GRATITUDE

**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller

**HOSPITALIZED:**

Becky Folsom – Akron City

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie	Scott Hipkins
Bob Ahonen	Lee Minier
Debbie Amundsen	Jack Nietzsche
Glenn Atwood	Pat Park
Behrman family	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Bailey	Christina Shaw
Bill & Janet Blank	Martha Shoults
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Ken Tunstall
Larry Brimlow	

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Brent (Christy) Meyers & family on the death of his father, Carl Hamilton on 11/5.