



Order of Worship

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

Gathering and Welcome *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Prelude *Salvation* – Kentucky Harmony

Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Call to worship** (based on Psalm 146)

Come! Praise the Lord!

Praise God for the heavens and the earth and all that is in them!

Come! Praise the Lord!

Praise God who feeds the hungry and uplifts the downtrodden!

Come! Praise the Lord!

Praise God who gives sight to the blind and sets prisoners free!

Come! Praise the Lord!

The Lord will reign forever! Praise the Lord!

***Hymn # 33** *Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show*

***Call to confession**

Perhaps we fear that if we admit the flaws of our lives, we will find ourselves too far away, unreachable by God's grace. But no chasm is too wide for God. In the act of confession, we begin the work of reconciliation, reaching out so God can take our hand once again. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of confession**

Almighty God, you call us to lives of service, but we confess that we ignore our neighbors in need right outside our door. You call us to share our abundance, but we confess that we choose our own comfort over generosity to others. You call us to build community, but we confess that we are too often gatekeepers, letting in only the ones that make us comfortable. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to be content with enough and inspire us to share what we have – our prosperity, our power and our love – until all your children have life and dignity in beloved community. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Friends, who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ prays for us. Christ reaches out with endless love and mercy. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made ready to love and serve. Alleluia. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem *Do Not Be Afraid* – Patterson/Morris

Jessye Whitis, Music Director and pianist; La Verne Morris, soloist

Congregation, please join on the Refrain:

Refrain

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of E major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#), and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'All' (Allegro). The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of the refrain, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. Chord symbols are written above the notes: E, B, C#m, G, D/F#, E, B on the first staff; C#m, D, Bm7, Dmaj7, E, B, C#m on the second staff; and E7, D, Bm7, C, Em, Am7, Bm7, E on the third staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The third staff ends with a fermata and the words 'Last time'.

Do not be a - fraid, for I am with you. Cho-sen and be -
loved, you are my own. Do not be a - fraid, for I have re -
deemed you: by your name I called you for my own. Last time

Prayer for illumination

God of wonder, as we hear your Word for us today, fill us with holy imagination. Help us hear your holy invitation and ignite within us a passion to live your truth and follow your way. Amen.

Scripture readings Psalm 146, Luke 16: 19 - 31

Sermon *Standing On Shifting Sands*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

Affirmation of faith (Apostles' Creed)

**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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;**

he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn # 838 *Standing on the Promises

Call for the offering

We are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share the gifts that have been shared with us. In our sharing, we make our actions our prayer that our neighbors might know God's abundant love. Let us consider the gifts we give in grateful praise.

Offertory *Fairest Lord Jesus* – arr. Jerry Ray Jessye Whitis, pianist

Doxology #606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of dedication

All that we have is a gift from you. Lord, bless these gifts and inspire us to use them in ways that transform and enliven your people. May they be a blessing to those who need them most. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray.

Generous God, for the blessings of this day, we thank you. We thank you for food to eat, clothes to wear, and safe places to gather. We thank you for friends and family, a place in community with others, and the love that is shared between them. We hope for these blessings to be showered upon all your children, yet we know that far too many of our neighbors live in deep need. So we lift our prayers to you in hopefulness that it may one day soon be so.

We pray for those who, like Lazarus, are hungry and thirsty for the basic necessities of life, which often seem just out of reach. Lead those who are hungry to tables of plenty. Shelter those who are unhoused. Tend to those for whom health care is a luxury they cannot afford. Teach us to be generous, sharing what we have with those who have less, so all can have enough.

We pray for those who, like Lazarus, are overlooked and neglected in this world. Be with those who are rejected. Give us the courage to not look away, but to stand beside them until the world is made just.

We pray for those whose bodies, minds, and spirits ache for your peace. Where we can be healers, inspire us to do so. Where only your hand can heal, bring your healing mercies. Come close to those who are ill and those who grieve alongside them. Wrap them in your loving arms and give them peace. We thank you for our medical professionals and caregivers everywhere. Strengthen them in their work.

Merciful God, hear our prayers. Move us out of idleness and into faithful service. May we be your hands and heart, tending to your children until at last this world is just the way you meant it to be for us. This we ask in the name of your Son, who taught us to pray, saying,
“Our Father...”

Hymn of Sending #700 *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Charge and benediction

Go, we cannot stay here, there is work to do. Go, there are people to love and people to serve.
Go, be rich in good works for that will bring true joy!

May the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit uplift and uphold you now and always. **Amen.**

Postlude *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

Jessye Whitis, pianist

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Liturgy written by Rev. Rae Watson