

# **Worship Services on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 10:15 AM and Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

## **Quiet Time Prayer**

**There are times, God, when I don't know  
if I'm on the right track in following you,  
or if what I'm doing really serves you.  
Make your way plain to me. Amen.**

## **Welcome**

**Greeting** God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

**Question of the Day** How old was Joshua when he died? a) 90 b) 100 c) 110 d) 120

**\*Hymn** "10,000 Reasons"

## **\*Call to Worship**

Let us put away the things that we have substituted for God.

May our worship of the one true God be genuine.

**We seek to know God and to rejoice before our Creator.**

**We choose to serve the God whom Jesus revealed.**

Our hope is in God's grace. Our trust is in God's love.

**Let us worship God!**

## **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**God of our ancestors, be our God today as we gather in sincerity and faithfulness to honor you. Attune our hearts to your commandments as we remember your mighty acts. Declare your Word to us so we may be inspired to obey. We open ourselves to your Spirit. Amen.**

## **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-30 *New Revised Standard Version***

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors – Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor – lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. . . .

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the

people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the LORD. Joshua said to all the people, "See, this stone shall be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, if you deal falsely with your God." So Joshua sent the people away to their inheritances.

After these things Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred ten years old. They buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-erah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

### **I Thessalonians 4:13-18 *New Revised Standard Version***

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Response:** *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

**\*Hymn** "Surely the Presence"

### **Time of Prayer**

#### **How Is It With Your Soul?**

#### **Call to Confession**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good.** *(Time of Silent Prayer)*

Hear the good news: nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are loved and forgiven! With Jesus we pray:

#### **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.**

### **Answer to the Question of the Day**

How old was Joshua when he died? a) 90 b) 100 c) 110 d) 120

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**Time of Offering** *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

**Offering Prayer**

**We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.**

**\*Song of Offering** “My Gratitude”

**Message** “Decision Making and Serving” Rev. Joyce Rich

**\*Commission and Blessing**

Let us give our complete loyalty and devotion to God,  
for God frees us for joyous living.

**We will serve the Lord our God.**

**We know that God goes with us everywhere.**

May worship continue wherever we go.

May our service extend God’s love to all we meet.

**We will consult God in our daily choices.**

**We will respond to others in the spirit of Christ.**

Amen. **And Amen.**

**\*Hymn** “The Time Has Come”

**Announcements**

**Read for Next Week** Matthew 25:14-30; I Thessalonians 5:1-11

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion; Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor  
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