

Worship Service on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 10:15 AM

Welcome

Prelude “Aria” *Noel Rawsthorne*
 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” *Van Denman Thompson*

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

Question of the Day What is church?

***Hymn #436 UMH** “The Voice of God Is Calling”

***Call to Worship**

Come, all who live in the shelter of the Most High.

Gather together, all who trust in God Almighty.

We trust in God, our refuge and our fortress.

We can count on God’s faithfulness at all times.

Worship God, who richly provides us with all things.

Give thanks to the one who dwells in unapproachable light.

God, who made heaven and earth, keeps faith forever.

We will pour out our thankfulness in words and deeds.

***Prayer of Invocation**

God of the Prophets, by the power of the Holy Spirit speak your Word to us, and seal it within us, that we may heed your call. Amen.

Luke 16:19-31 *New Revised Standard Version*

[Jesus said,] “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house – for I have five brothers – that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

I Timothy 6:6-19 *The Message*

A devout life does bring wealth, but it’s the rich simplicity of being yourself before God. Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless, if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that’s enough.

But if it’s only money these leaders are after, they’ll self-destruct in no time. Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.

But you, Timothy, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life – a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.

I'm charging you before the life-giving God and before Christ, who took his stand before Pontius Pilate and didn't give an inch: Keep this command to the letter, and don't slack off. Our Master, Jesus Christ, is on his way. He'll show up right on time, his arrival guaranteed by the Blessed and Undisputed Ruler, High King, High God. He's the only one death can't touch, his light so bright no one can get close. He's never been seen by human eyes – human eyes can't take him in! Honor to him, and eternal rule! Oh, yes.

Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage – to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

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

Hymn #2167 FWS “More Like You”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Prayer of Intercession

Lord, we call to you, our refuge, provide your safe space.

We call to you, our fortress, provide your strength.

We call to you, our trust, provide your vision.

We call to you, our deliverer, provide your promise.

We call to you, our cover, provide your gentleness.

We call to you, our faithful, provide your presence.

We call to you, our shield, provide your defense.

We call to you, our bunker, provide your confidence.

We call to you, our protector, provide your future.

We call to you, our rescuer, provide your breath.

We call to you, our satisfaction, provide your peace.

We call to you, our savior, provide your grace.

Time of Silent Prayer

As disciples of Christ, we call on you:

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 What is church?

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

***Offering Prayer**

Eternal God, who gives life to all things, and richly provides us with everything, use our offerings and show us the life that really is life. Help us to measure our time, in faithful generosity, that your will be done, your kingdom come, for life everlasting, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Song of Offering** #2044 FWS “My Gratitude Now Accept, O God”

Message “Life That Really Is Life” Rev. Joyce Rich

***Blessing**

Pursue righteousness and godliness, today and always.
Face life with gentleness and endurance.

The love of God sends us out to share love.

The riches of God inspire our generosity.

Fight the good fight of faith.

Take hold of eternal life in the midst of every day.

We are called to life with eternity in it.

We are blessed with God's presence always.

Amen. **And Amen.**

***Hymn #427 UMH** "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Announcements

Read For Next Week: Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; II Timothy 1:1-14

Postlude "St. Anthony's Chorale" *Franz Josef Haydn*

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