



September 15, 2024 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM
17th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Voluntary No. 3 | Arlen Clarke

James Stanley

CALL TO WORSHIP †

God, you call each of us to serve you, and we answer,
“Here I am!”

Jesus, you call each of us to follow you, and we answer,
“Here I am!”

Holy Spirit, you call each of us to worship you this day,
and we answer,
“Here I am!”

Rev. Natasha Murray

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 593 †

Here I Am, Lord | United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

O God, you call to us today, just as you called to the boy Samuel so long ago. Gathered here today, we are many different ages, but we pray for the maturity of faith to hear your call and respond to your Word. Open our ears and our hearts as we worship, as we work, and as we care for one another. We ask that you would give us courage and integrity to answer your call with the heart-felt words, “Here I am!” Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 503 †

Let it breathe on me; let it breathe on me;
Let the breath of the Lord now breathe on me.
Let it breathe on me; let it breathe on me;
Let the breath of the Lord now breathe on me.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David C. Freeman

SONG

Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me— the Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

HYMN 92

For the Beauty of the Earth | United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

VOCAL SOLO

Sharon Downs

The Lord’s Prayer | Albert Malotte

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Julie Holt

1 Samuel 3:1-10 | Pew Bible, Old Testament Page 241

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

Rising Action

Rev. David C. Freeman

A Story Worth Living Reflection Prompts

Write about ways you experience the presence of God in your everyday life.

How do you know? What do you feel?

Think about an ordinary experience in your life and begin writing about it. Describe it in as much detail as possible. As you increase your awareness, search for the ways in which it was a sacred experience.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED [†]

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I 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.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Ensemble, Caryn Taulbee & Tracy Gaufin, Handbells
All Good Gifts | Jeffrey Honore

DOXOLOGY 94 †

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow | United Methodist Hymnal

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

OUR PRAYER FOR HOPE †

God of Heaven and Earth, in this season, I commit to seeking justice, sowing seeds of unity, acting with kindness, and loving my neighbors even when we disagree. I release myself from anger, cruelty, violence, and despair. I allow hope to fill my mind, my body, and my spirit. I allow your love to guide me. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 144 †

This is My Father's World | United Methodist Hymnal

SERVICE OF SENDING FORTH FOR TROY AND BETH SCHMIT †

We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives. We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.

Let us pray:

O God, you are the strength and the protector of your people. We humbly place in your hands the Schmits who are about to leave us. Keep and preserve them, O Lord, in all health and safety, both of body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Our prayers go with you. Amen.

BENEDICTION †

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION †

Until We Meet Again | Christi Jones

POSTLUDE

James Stanley

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

Clergy: Rev. David Freeman,
Rev. Natasha Murray, Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

Music & Worship Arts: Ensemble, James Stanley, Shannon Webb

Liturgist: Julie Holt

Audio/Visual: Christopher Cone,
Gilbert Ponder

Altar Guild: Pamela Owen, Judy Jewell

Altar Flowers: To the glory of God and in memory of Horace and Irma Jewell given by the Jewell family.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Requesting Prayer:

Bill Naylor, Kathy Blackmon, Jason Cline & Family, Brian Kinder, Emily Taylor, Sidney Beal, Chad Wycoff, Savannah Smith, Les Haynie, Steve Cross, Bill Lewis, Ann Marie Trammell, Rosie Howard, Jeff Crowe, Mike Pack, Tracy Tomlinson, Gayle Bogy

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, September 15, 2024

- 9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm Koinonia Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 12:15 pm Youngish Adult Brunch
- 4:00 pm Ireland Retreat Mtg (First Cup)
- 5:00 pm Youth Gathering
- 5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

Monday, September 16, 2024

- 9:00 am Flower Girls
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:00 pm Lay Leadership Comm. (Rm 204)
- 6:30 pm Adult Into to Taiko Drumming

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

- 7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study
- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:30 am Worship Planning
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:00 pm Stewardship & Finance (Rm 204)
- 6:00 pm Board of Stewards (Rm 204)
- 6:00 pm Taiko Drumming

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

- 9:30 am CDC chapel
- 12:00 pm Church Security Mtg (Rm 204)
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:30 pm Center St. Ringers Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm Wed. Night on Center St.
- 5:30 pm Center St Ringers
- 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 19, 2024

- 7:00 pm Ensemble



young(ish) adult
Brunch

**BLACKBERRY MARKET ARGENTA
12:00NOON**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

EXTENDED CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

RSVP TO REV. HALEY OR FILL OUT OUR ONLINE FORM

