



**September 29, 2024 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM**  
**19th Sunday after Pentecost**

GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

*Voluntary No. 6* | Paul F. Page

James Stanley

**CALL TO WORSHIP** †

Rev. Haley Wells Jones

We have seen the light of God;

**on high mountains of celebration and in the ecstasy of a lover's embrace.**

We have seen the light of God;

**through the bitter scorn of betrayal and the searing chasm of grief.**

We have seen the light of God;

**with eyes that have been shaded, with eyes that have been opened, with eyes that have been blinded.**

We have seen the light of God.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 451†**

*Be Thou My Vision* | United Methodist Hymnal

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY †**

**Holy God, mighty and immortal,  
you are beyond our knowing,  
yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ,  
whose compassion illumines the world.**

**Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ,  
who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity,  
the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE †**

**The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.**

## **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 352 †**

**It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.**

**1. Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of  
prayer**

**2. Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need  
of prayer**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **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 258**

*O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair* | United Methodist Hymnal

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### ANTHEM

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God* | Robert J. Powell

Chancel Choir

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### THE GOSPEL LESSON †

Georgia Bell

Matthew 17:1-8 | Pew Bible, New Testament Page 17

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

### SERMON

Plot Twists

Rev. Natasha Murray

### **A Story Worth Living Reflection Prompts**

How have you been surprised by God?

When have you surprised yourself with how you have responded to the “surprises” of life?

How can you share that experience with others?

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### OFFERTORY

*Stayed On Jesus* | Alice Parker

Kelley Ponder and Clint Kesterson, Soloists

Chancel Choir

### 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

**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 512 †**

*Stand By Me* | United Methodist Hymnal

**PRAYER OF SENDING FOR JERRY CARPENTER †**

**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 your family and your new community, as you have added much to our lives. We will pray for you and for the whole family of God. Go in the peace of Christ. Our prayers go with you. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION †**

**CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION †**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You* | Peter Lutkin

**POSTLUDE**

*Voluntary No. 4* | Paul F. Page

James Stanley

## **ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE**

**Clergy:** Rev. Natasha Murray,  
Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson,  
Rev. Haley Jones Wells

**Music & Worship Arts:** Chancel Choir, James Stanley, Shannon Webb

**Liturgist:** Georgia Bell

**Audio/Visual:** Christopher Cone,  
Lesley Andrews

**Altar Guild:** Juanita Woodard, Betty Harris

**Altar Flowers:** To the glory of God and  
in loving memory of my parents, Bill  
and Caroline Griffin, given by Wilsie  
Griffin-Tiner.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

### **Requesting Prayer:**

Bob Mosely, Bill Naylor, Jason Cline & Family, Brian Kinder, Emily Taylor,  
Sidney Beal



● ● ● ● ● ● ● WE NEED WALKERS & WORKERS!

***Support Pride Fest 2024***

***Sat., October 19th***

***Parade at Noon, PRIDE Fest 12-6pm***

Walk with us in the parade at noon  
or work a shift in the FUMCLR booth.

**Sign up on the Journey Card!**



## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

### **Sunday, September 29, 2024**

9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)  
12:00 pm SERVE Meeting (First Cup Café)  
5:00 pm Youth Gathering  
5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

### **Monday, September 30, 2024**

9:00 am Flower Girls  
1:00 pm Community Café  
3:00 pm Washington Elem. Basketball  
6:30 pm Adult Intro to Taiko Drumming

### **Tuesday, October 1, 2024**

7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study  
9:00 am Staff Meeting  
10:30 am Worship Planning  
1:00 pm Community Café  
3:00 pm First Arts (Gym)  
6:00 pm Taiko Drumming

### **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

9:30 am CDC chapel  
9:30 am Downtown Ministers' Alliance  
1:00 pm Community Café  
3:00 pm Washington Elem. Basketball  
5:00 pm Wed. Night on Center St.  
5:30 pm Center St Ringers  
7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

### **Thursday, October 3, 2024**

3:30 pm Washington Elem. Basketball