



**August 3rd, 2025 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | Eighth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

**GATHERING**

**ANTHEM**

*Me and Julio down by the Schoolyard* | Paul Simon

**CALL TO WORSHIP †**

Rev. Heather Rose

Beloved, only God knows

**God has a plan**

The information's too wonderful for we, the created

**Thanks be to God!**

Come, let us worship the Lord

**PASSING OF THE PEACE †**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

## **ANTHEM**

*Graceland* | Paul Simon

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Heather Rose

## **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**

## **ANTHEM**

*Slip Slidin' Away* | Paul Simon

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON †**

Marian Berry

### **Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14, 2: 18-23**

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
**vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven;

**it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with.**

I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see,

**all is vanity and a chasing after wind.**

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun.

**This also is vanity.**

So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it.

**This also is vanity and a great evil.**

What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun?

**For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.**

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. David C. Freeman

Slip Slidin' Away

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### **OFFERTORY**

*The Sound of Silence* | Paul Simon

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

James Stanley

**You are a child of God created in the Divine Image. You are welcomed, affirmed, and included at First Church, not despite, but because of your age, ability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity. This is how the Holy Spirit works: when you are welcomed, all are welcomed. When all are welcomed and embraced as the Body of Christ, the world is transformed into a place where all of God's Children can THRIVE, finding the Trust, Health, Relationship, Imagination, Value, and Education they need. We are all children of God. Thanks be to God!**

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING †**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***We've reason to believe we all will be received in Graceland***

*...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

***We've reason to believe we all will be received in Graceland***

*...all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.*

***We've reason to believe we all will be received in Graceland***

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.

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE GIVING OF THE CUP**

### **ANTHEM**

Kelly Ponder

*Bridge Over Troubled Water* | Paul Simon

## **SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**

### **INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**As a community and individuals, responding to God's grace, we seek to be good neighbors to make Little Rock a place where all God's children THRIVE. Through our spiritual journey and life in the community, we will work for the core values we believe all children of God need; Trust, Health, Relationships, Imagination, Value, and Education.**

### **ANTHEM**

*The Boxer* | Paul Simon

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

## **BENEDICTION †**

## **POSTLUDE**

*The Boxer (Reprise)* | Paul Simon

## **ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE**

Clergy:

Rev. David C. Freeman

Rev. Heather Rose

**Music & Worship Arts:** Kelly Ponder, James Stanley, Shannon Webb

**Liturgist:** Marian Berry

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

**Altar Guild:** Jessica Szenher, Laura Elrod

**Altar Flowers:** To the glory of God and in Honor of Mary Lou & Terry Rasco's 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. Given by Terry Rasco.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

### **Requesting Prayer:**

Kaye Hoover, Hilda Thomas, Larry Woodard, Pat Blackstone, David Anderson, Bill Burton, Jace McRorey

### **Sympathy:**

Please remember Paul and Sarah James after the death of Paul's father, David James on July 23rd.

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

### **Sunday, August 3, 2025**

9:00 am First Word Worship  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)  
2:30 pm Mike Charles Basketball Academy  
5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

### **Monday, August 4, 2025**

9:00 am Flower Girls  
1:00 pm Community Café  
6:30 pm Beginner Taiko

### **Tuesday, August 5, 2025**

7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study  
9:00 am Staff Meeting  
10:30 am Worship Planning  
1:00 pm Community Café  
4:00 pm Mike Charles Basketball Academy  
6:30 pm Intermediate Taiko

### **Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

11:00 am Canvas Meal Prep  
1:00 pm Community Café

### **Thursday, August 7, 2025**

4:00 pm Mike Charles Basketball Academy