

September 27, 2026 | 11:00 | Traditional Worship

## ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

### WELCOME

*Assisted listening devices are available in the sound booth.*

### PRELUDE

Kids Ringers 4-6

*God of the Ages*

Arr. by Erin MacGorman

### † INTROIT AND CALL TO WORSHIP

† Indicates the congregation should stand.

#### Choir

*I was glad when they said to me: "Let us go to the house of God!"*

L: Come into the Lord's holy presence with singing, and enter His gates with songs of thanksgiving!

**P: We enter His courts with praise, lifting up our hearts and voices to the One who made us.**

L: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness.

**P: We come before Him with joyful songs, for the Lord is good and His love endures forever.**

L: Let your hearts be glad, because His faithfulness continues through all generations.

**P: We are glad to be called His people, the sheep of His pasture.**

L: Let us cast aside our worries and fill this sanctuary with our praises.

**P: In His presence there is fullness of joy! Let us worship the Lord together.**

## † PROCESSIONAL HYMN 57

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

## † PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we rejoice that we can come into Your house today and worship You with those who love You, too. Thank You for inspiring and leading Your people to establish Your house here in this place. We pray that all who worship here might experience Your love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. We pray for Your people all the world over, and we pray that they might prosper along with us as we serve You and others. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

## † PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomes everyone, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet. Now greet one another as a sign of God's peace.*

L: The peace of Christ is here among us.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

### CALL TO THE WORD

As we prepare to hear God's Word, we are reminded that the Christian life follows a pattern much like a fruitful harvest. Before fruit can appear, roots must grow deep and healthy. Before a harvest can be gathered, the soil must be cultivated with care. In the same way, our generosity, service, and witness are not the root of our faith but the fruit of a living relationship with Christ. Today's Scripture invites us to consider how God roots us in His grace, cultivates growth through His Spirit, and ultimately brings forth fruit for His kingdom. Let us listen for God's voice as we hear His Word proclaimed.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 15:1–5, Galatians 5:13–14, 22b–23

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*Bearing Fruit*

Pastor Markus Wegenast  
Rev. Dr. Carrie Kreps Wegenast

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### TIME OF COMMITMENT

*You are invited to come forward and place your Capital Campaign pledge and/or the Commitment Card you received in the beginning of this service in the baskets by the altar.*

### PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

- L: God, timeless and full of grace, You are the source of every good thing in our lives. We gather today grateful for every season of our congregation's story.
- P: For Your unconditional love, Your clear guidance, and the home we have found in this space, we offer our thanks.**
- L: You've called us to be caretakers, not hoarders, of the time, talents, and resources placed in our hands. Thank You for giving us a clear direction: to grow our work, refresh our physical spaces, and connect more deeply with our neighbors.
- P: Open our hearts to where You are leading and give us the courage to step forward.**

L: This campaign is about far more than concrete, budgets, and buildings. It is a shared spiritual journey—one rooted in generosity, personal sacrifice, and active faith.

**P: Unless God grounds our work, everything we build falls short.**

L: We know that a meaningful mission asks something real of us. Today, we bring our financial commitments—not out of duty or guilt, but from a spirit of joy and purpose.

**P: Everything we have comes from You, God; we are simply returning what was already Yours.**

L: We dedicate ourselves to moving forward together with confidence, courage, and hope—so that those who come after us will experience love in this place:

**P: We make our pledge, commit our prayers, dedicate our resources, and trust You with our future. Amen.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

To the tune GIFT OF LOVE

**The church of Christ, in every age beset by change but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord, to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.**

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Dan Forrest

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth? Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee! Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriends thee. Praise to the Lord, to the King of creation! Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him! Amen.

## † DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## † PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Ever Gracious God, we thank You for the many gifts of abundant life we have in You. We especially thank You for the life and ministries shared over the years in this congregation. As we set our faces and fix our hearts toward our future, weave these commitments and gifts into Your Kingdom legacy and consecrate what is given and received to Your glory. Keep us ever mindful of Your vision as we move forward in sowing seeds now and in generations to come. We ask this in the hope and promise of Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:**

**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.**

## GO FORTH WITH GOD'S BLESSING

## † RECESSIONAL HYMN 438

*Forth in Thy Name, O Lord*

DUKE STREET

## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

*Toccata for a Joyful Day*

Emma Lou Diemer

## IN WORSHIP TODAY

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Dave, Sharon and Sarah Smith in celebration of the marriage of Shelby Smith and Tyler Brown.

A rosebud is placed on the altar to celebrate the birth of Archer Bruce Dowdle, born on September 12, 2026, to Rachel Senefeld-Naber and Steven Dowdle. Sister is Amelia Jean (AJ) Dowdle. Grandparents are Pam Senefeld and Russ Naber.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Markus Wegenast, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Carrie Kreps Wegenast, *Guest Preacher*

Samuel Yuhas, *Acolyte*

Violet Enginger, Leslie Payne, *Lay Readers*

Joe Galyon, *Director of Worship and Arts*

David Anderson, *Director of Children's Music*

Kids Ringers 4-6, Covenant Choir, Jane Sheetz (horn), Josiah

Jobe (percussion), and Moyue Zhou (piano), *Musicians*

David Eberhardt, *Director of Contemporary Worship*

### TELL US YOU'RE HERE

Thank you for worshipping with us. Please use the yellow communication sheet or this QR code to tell us you are here and to share prayer requests. If worshipping online, use [this link](#).



See [www.cos-umc.org](http://www.cos-umc.org) for more information about our ministries.