



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

Rev. Dr. Barbara Dickason, BCC

United in Christ's love, a just world for all!

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2026

Singing Prelude

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Whitfield/American Tune

**O, how I love Jesus; O, how I love Jesus;
O, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me. (repeat)**

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Kirkpatrick

Responsive Call to Worship

Rev. Bob Zittel

God calls us beyond the words we speak and the promises we make.

God calls us to live what we proclaim.

When we have said yes but failed to follow through, God calls us again.

When we have resisted but find courage to change, God meets us on the way.

So come, with hearts open to transformation.

We come to listen, to respond, and to worship God.

***Hymn**

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

March/Beethoven

**1. Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white, and harvests waiting.
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Savior calls us,
rich reward he offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me?"**

**2. If you cannot cross the ocean,
and the distant lands explore,
you can find the lost around you,
you can help them at your door.
If you cannot give your thousands,
you can give the widow's mite.
What you truly give for Jesus
will be precious in his sight.**

**3. Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the lost of earth are dying
and the Savior calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
let his work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when he calls you,
"Here I am, send me, send me."**

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Living God,

God of justice and mercy, we know how easily good intentions become substitutes for faithful action. We say yes to compassion, justice, and love, yet sometimes resist where they ask something of us. Forgive us when discomfort becomes an excuse for avoidance, when protecting what is familiar matters more to us than following you.

**Give us courage to change our minds, to change our ways,
and to follow where Christ leads. Amen.**

***Words of Grace**

God's grace does not require us to pretend we have always gotten it right.

God gives us room to change, courage to begin again, and grace for the road ahead.

We are forgiven, renewed, and called once more to follow. Amen.

***Response**

Be Not Afraid

Dufford

Be not afraid. I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

We Encounter God in the Word

Contemplative Reading

My Grandmother's Hands¹

Resmaa

God is still speaking. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Give Me Yo' Hand

arr. Lloyd, Jr.

Rob Dickason, Alto Saxophonist

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

the Message

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

He'll Ask Us, "Why?" 2-12

Pastor Barb

We Respond to God's Grace

Congregational Prayers

Silent Prayers

Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer¹³

**O Cosmic Birther, from whom the Breath of Life comes,
who fills all realms of sound, light and vibration.
May Your light be experienced in my utmost holiest.
Your Heavenly Domain approaches.
Let Your will come true in the universe (*all that vibrates*)
just as on earth (*that is material and dense*).
Give us wisdom (*understanding, assistance*) for our daily need,
detach the fetters of faults that bind us, like we let go the guilt of others.
Let us not be lost in superficial things (*materialism, common temptations*),
but let us be freed from that what keeps us off from our true purpose.
From You comes the all-working will, the lively strength to act,
the song that beautifies all and renews itself from age to age.
Sealed in trust, faith and truth. (*I confirm with my entire being*). Amen.**

Response

We Sing of Your Glory

Trad. Latin American

**We sing of your glory, we praise you again, for you are eternal. Amen. Amen.
We sing of your power and honor again, for you are eternal. Amen. Amen.**

We Share God's Love

Invitation to Generosity

*(The offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.
For those of us online, please follow the QR code.)*

***Song of Gratitude**

*For Your Generous Providing*¹⁴

Moore/Fisher

Sung to the tune of HOLY MANNA (*Christians, We Have Met to Worship*)

**For your generous providing which sustains us all our days,
for your Spirit here residing, we proclaim our heartfelt praise.
Through the depths of joy and sorrow, though the road be smooth or rough,
fearless, we can face tomorrow for your grace will be enough.**

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

God of love,

**Receive these gifts and all that we offer. Turn our gratitude into action,
our compassion into service, and our hope into work for justice.
Use us and these gifts to help make your love visible in the world. Amen.**

We Go to Carry the Light

***Hymn**

*Draw the Circle Wide*¹⁵

Light/Miller

1. Refrain-Wally 2. Ref.-All 3. Verse-Wally 4. Ref.-All 5. Verse-Wally 6. Ref.-All

(Refrain) **Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Sing twice each time: 1st time soft (p)...second time loud (f)

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Sending Blessing**

Go Ye, Go Ye into the World

Sleeth

Go ye, go ye into the world, and make disciples of all the nations.

Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there!

Postlude

Here I Am, Lord

Schutte/arr. Schrader

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the Light of Christ is carried into the world.
The worship has ended; our service begins.**

UPCOMING CALENDAR

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28



12:00 PM SPIRIT-FED
(ZOOM BIBLE STUDY)
MEETING ID: 83576594637
PASSWORD: 913882
6:30 PM BRIDGE - P

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29

9:00 AM STAFF MEETING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM LIBRARY OPEN
10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY - CR
6:30 PM CHOIR

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

10:00 AM GARDEN CLUB - NH
6:00 PM GIRL SCOUTS - ED ROOM

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

8:30 AM MEN'S WEEKLY COFFEE - PANERA
9:00 AM CHURCH WOMEN UNITED BOARD
MEETING - CR

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

9:00 AM LIBRARY HOUR
9:00 AM CHOIR
10:00 AM WORSHIP (IN SITU AND VIRTUAL)
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP TIME -
NAAR HALL
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM LIBRARY OPEN
3:00 PM BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Supporting Our Service Today

Liturgist: Rev. Bob Zittel **Song Leader:** Wally Davis **Guest Musician:** Rob Dickason
Acolyte: Bella Clapham **Welcome Table:** Fran Kulak **Greeter:** Posie Gallaher
Head Usher: Gary Leidheiser
Usher Team: Leslie Chabek, Rob Dickason, Sharon Leidheiser, Holly Vincent

Technology Team

(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody, David Jack, Linda Newton, Wally Davis,
Patty Fjetland, Scott Mellen, Gary and Sharon Leidheiser

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by

Helen Helgren & Loren Matasel celebrating their 12 year anniversary

Sunday Librarian: Toni Yahres

Fellowship Hosts: Mel Burrowes & Helen Markus

1. Resmaa Menakem, *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* (Las Vegas: Central Recovery Press, 2017), 211-212.
2. "Frank M. Johnson Jr.," *Encyclopedia of Alabama*. Johnson's civil-rights rulings led to ostracism and threats against him and his family; a cross was burned on his lawn, and federal marshals provided extended protection. See also Federal Judicial Center, "Johnson, Frank Minis, Jr."
3. "Frank M. Johnson Jr.," *Encyclopedia of Alabama*. In permitting the Selma-to-Montgomery march, Johnson wrote that the extent of the right to demonstrate should be "commensurate with the enormity of the wrongs" being protested, adding, "In this case, the wrongs are enormous."
4. Kathryn D. Blanchard, "Theological Perspective," and Charlotte Dudley Cleghorn, "Pastoral Perspective," in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary*, Year A, vol. 4, ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 116-21. Both emphasize the Temple context and the reasonableness of the leaders' question following Jesus' actions there.
5. M. Eugene Boring, "Matthew," in *The New Interpreter's Bible*, vol. 8, ed. Leander E. Keck et al. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995), 408-10; Blanchard, "Theological Perspective," 116-21. Boring understands Jesus' appeal to John as more than a debating strategy: John and Jesus stand within the prophetic succession of those who bear God's word and are rejected by established leaders.
6. Boring, "Matthew," 409-10. Boring distinguishes the leaders' response from genuine religious humility: "We don't know" can be an appropriate confession, but here it becomes a refusal to decide when the search for truth has reached the point at which a stand must be taken.
7. Blanchard, "Theological Perspective," and Cleghorn, "Pastoral Perspective," in *Feasting on the Word*, 116-21. Blanchard emphasizes that righteousness is revealed in doing rather than merely professing, while Cleghorn emphasizes Jesus' questions as invitations to transformation rather than exercises in producing correct answers.
8. Lewis R. Donelson, "Exegetical Perspective," in *Feasting on the Word*, 116-21; Boring, "Matthew," 411-12. Donelson cautions against reducing the parable to a generic contrast between words and actions. Jesus' return to John in v. 32 locates the parable specifically in the response to John's "way of righteousness"; in Matthew, receiving the message of John and Jesus takes concrete form in a changed life.
9. Resmaa Menakem, *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* (Las Vegas: Central Recovery Press, 2017), 210-12.
10. Menakem, *My Grandmother's Hands*, 211-12. Menakem describes the choice to face and heal the trauma of white-body supremacy rather than continuing to transmit it, connecting that choice to the distinction between clean pain, through which healing becomes possible, and dirty pain, which perpetuates trauma.
11. "A Call for Unity," April 12, 1963, statement by eight Alabama religious leaders. The statement characterized the Birmingham demonstrations as "unwise and untimely" and advocated negotiation and legal remedies rather than demonstrations.
12. Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963. King responded directly to the eight clergy, challenging both their call for patience and the assumption that the passage of time itself would bring justice.
13. From the Original Aramaic, a translation. minnesotaumc.org
14. *For Your Generous Providing*. Moore/Fisher. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI Song # 2590307 CCLI License # 11176734
15. *Draw the Circle Wide*. Words: Gordon Light Music: Mark Miller Copyright ©2008 One License #A-743301. All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.



United in Spirit and by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all. We are a Christian Fellowship of faith, building a community that supports each other to help feed the hungry, to clothe the naked and welcome strangers, while living a life that leads to deeper experiences walking humbly with God.

We believe all are welcome and united by God's love. Our daily worship is anchored by the belief that God is still speaking. The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 4,500 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. We believe in putting our faith into action as we follow Jesus' example to love one another.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Dickason, BCC

Gary Leidheiser: Custodian

Music Staff:

Marguerite Long: Administrative Specialist

Barbara Quinn: Music Director

Natashia Laughnan: Social Media and Communications Specialist

Lynda Weston: Bella Handbell Director

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