

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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What is Your Next Step?

September 20, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Jacob Hackett

Welcome

Prelude

"Bishopthorpe"

Healey Willan

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from near and far; in-person and virtual, live on Sunday and all week long! Come! Come and prepare to take your next step in faith. Come and worship Jesus Christ together!

People: **We come, ready to discern what God is calling us to do.**

Leader: To discern that, we also need to discern the gifts God has given us.

People: **We all have gifts. We all have a calling. Imagine a church where dozens of people all commit to deepening their faith together!**

Hymn

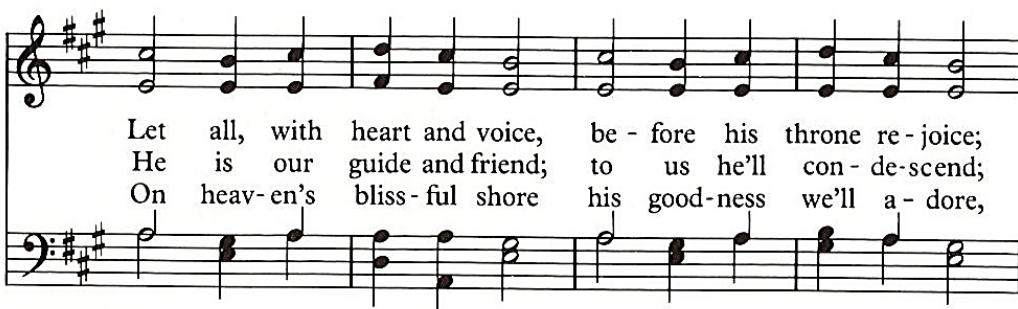
Come, Christians, Join to Sing



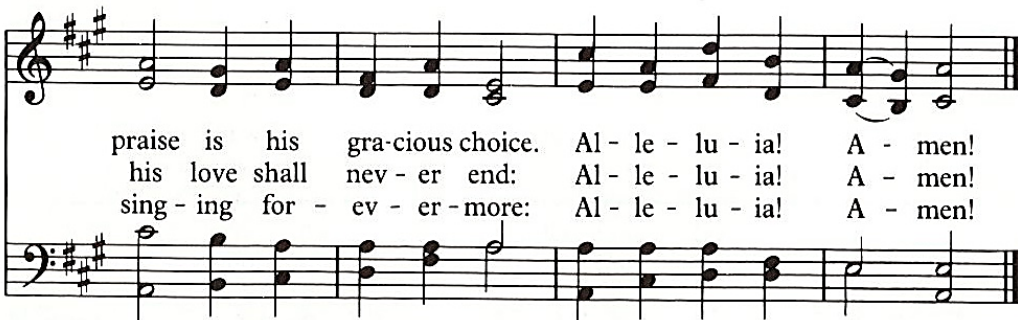
1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet the Lord a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,



praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Opening Prayer

Lord, help us get ready to answer your call. Our gifts are different, but equal. When we put them together, we form a more complete church. Help us get set. Resource us, equip us and surround us with great friends. And then send us. Send us to use our gifts in the right ways, the right times, and the right places. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

“The Baptismal Covenant II”

Jacob Issacson
Hymnal Page 39

Reception of New Members

Anne, Brian, and Mary Isaacson

Young Disciples Chatting with The Rev

Hymn

Thou Art Worthy

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, O Lord
To receive glory, glory and honor, glory and honor and power.
For Thou hast created, hast all things created, for Thou hast created all things.
And for Thy pleasure they are created. Thou art worthy, O Lord.

Senior Choir

I Cry Holy

Dan McGowan

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 4:18-22

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

What is Your Next Step?

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

arr. Robert Lau

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

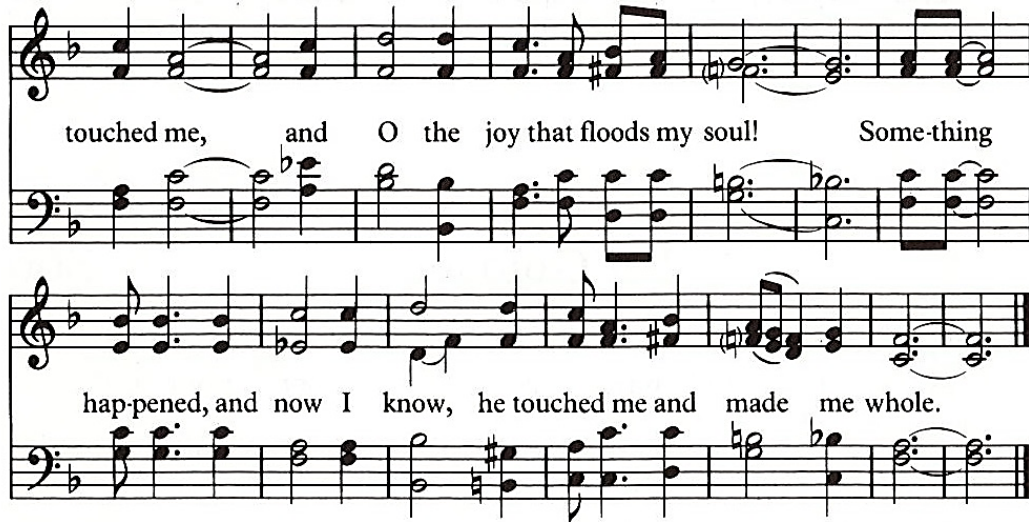
**Pastoral Prayer****The Lord's Prayer****Hymn****He Touched Me**

1. Shack-led by a heav - y bur - den, neath a load of
 2. Since I met this bless - ed Sav - ior, since he cleansed and

guilt and shame, then the hand of Je - sus touched me,
 made me whole, I will nev-er cease to praise him;

Refrain

and now I am no long-er the same. He touched me, O he
 I'll shout it while e - ter - ni - ty rolls.



touched me, and O the joy that floods my soul! Some-thing
hap-pened, and now I know, he touched me and made me whole.

Benediction

Postlude

The God of Abraham Praise

David Goldstein

