



BIRMINGHAM FIRST
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
...gathered here for good.™

Prelude

Communion Meditation
(Adoro te Devote)

Everett Titcomb

*Hymn #64

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

*Call To Worship

Leader: Come in. The table is set, and there is room.

People: We come from full weeks, a little hungry for something.

Leader: All over the world today, God's people are gathering around the same bread.

People: Different languages, one table. We were never as far apart as we thought.

Leader: Bring what you have, even if it looks like too little.

People: Whatever is given in love is never lost.

Leader: You are welcome here, just as you are: beloved.

All: Let us worship God with glad and grateful hearts!

*Response #617

I Come with Joy - vs. 1 & 2

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, for - giv - en,
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di -
 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence,
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll go our

loved and free, in awe and won - der to re - call his
 all are fed, the new com - mun - i - ty of love in
 vi - sion ends. The love that made us makes us one, and
 al - ways near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known; we
 dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple in the world, we'll

life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.
 live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Chad Oyer

Stewardship Moment

Eric Pelton

Pastoral prayer

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

None Like You
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

Creator of the moon and stars, of mountains reaching high,
Creator of the galaxies who hears a baby's cry,
Eternity, with all its years, stands present in Your view.
Alpha and Omega, Lord, there is none like You.

You make the wilderness to bloom and in the desert sand,
Provide the gentle, soaking rain, refreshing thirsty land.
You send the warming of the sun, the fragile snowflake, too.
We bow in gratitude, O Lord, there is none like You.

You paint the rainbow on the storm and tell the wind to cease,
You reach out with tender hand, creation is at peace.
You speak Your Word and it is done, the universe obeys,
But we are free to choose, Your children sing Your praise.

Creator of the moon and stars, of mountains reaching high,
Creator of the galaxies who hears a baby's cry,
Eternity, with all its years, stands present in Your view.
Alpha and Omega, Lord, there is none like You.

***Doxology #94**

**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 Dedication

Hymn #599

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Scripture

Luke 9:10-17

Message

Beloved: Taken, Blessed, Broken, Given

Bishop Gregory Palmer

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Ushers will direct you to come forward to receive communion by intinction. Please dip a piece of gluten-free bread into the cup, taking the bread and juice together. If you wish to receive communion and are unable to come forward, please alert an usher and you will be served in your pen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

***Hymn #548**

In Christ There is No East or West

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
(Westminster Abbey)*

D. Wilcocks



*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of
Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, with gratitude for his presence
and ministry among us today.*

*The Mission Candle is lit to the glory of God and
in celebration of Rich Teets' birthday.*



FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome, Bishop Gregory V. Palmer • World Communion Sunday

We are honored to welcome Bishop Gregory V. Palmer as our guest preacher this morning, on World Communion Sunday. Bishop Palmer was elected to the episcopacy of The United Methodist Church in 2000 and served episcopal areas in Iowa, Illinois, and West Ohio before retiring in 2024. A respected leader, preacher and teacher throughout the denomination, he served as President of the Council of Bishops from 2008–2010 and currently serves as its Executive Secretary. A native of Philadelphia, Bishop Palmer is a graduate of George Washington University and Duke University Divinity School. He and his wife, Cynthia, have two children, Monica and Aaron.

Rummage Sale Is This Week!

Rummage Sale week is here, and much of the church has been transformed for the sale! If your group or ministry has a meeting scheduled this week, please check with your staff liaison or group leader to confirm whether it is meeting as scheduled, has moved, or has been rescheduled. Coffee Hour is paused today while Fellowship Hall is being used for the sale, and there will be no Sunday Night Dinner this evening.

Fall Rummage Sale • Donate & Shop

Curbside donations will be accepted today from 1:00–8:00 p.m. and tomorrow, October 5, from 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Shop Wednesday, October 7 from noon–8:00 p.m., and Thursday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at regular price and 3:00–8:00 p.m. for 50% off and the \$10 Bag Sale.

Christmas Choirs Begin

Ready to share the joy of singing this season? Christmas Choir is your chance! Adults are invited to join the Chancel Choir on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., starting October 14 and continuing through Christmas. Elementary-age kids can join us Thursday afternoons for SPARK and choir, and middle and high school students are welcome in our Sunday evening program. There's no better way to celebrate the season, make new friends, and try something new! For more information, contact music@fumcbirmingham.org.

College Care Packets • Address Deadline Today

College students and parents: please send a current mailing address to cschulte@fumcbirmingham.org today. Want to help continue this 28+ year tradition? Donate small items or help assemble packets October 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Martin Room. Contact Sue Smith at sue.smith@beachcom.net or 248-730-3040.

The Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden has long been a cherished place of remembrance and tribute for our church family, and at its heart stands the custom limestone fountain that has welcomed visitors for years. Now showing signs of wear, it's being lovingly recreated in durable granite, so that this sacred space can continue offering comfort and beauty for generations to come. While there is no formal fundraising campaign, gifts toward the work are warmly welcomed and especially meaningful to families who have loved ones interred in the garden; simply designate your contribution "Home Fires: Memorial Fountain".

New Monthly Prayer Group • Today

Gather in prayer today from 10:35–10:55 a.m. in Ward Library, Room 105. The group will continue meeting on the first Sunday of each month. Questions? Contact Judy Lowery at 248-792-7821.

Prayer Team Members Needed

“Wealthy is the person who has a praying friend.” The Birmingham & Berkley First Prayer Team is looking for new members to pray for those in our congregation during times of need. Team members receive a confidential list of prayer requests by email each week. To learn more, contact Barbara Glick at barbaraglick@hotmail.com.

Pumpkin Patch Volunteers Needed • Throughout October

Help make the Pumpkin Patch happen! Volunteers are needed for daily two-hour sales shifts, with morning, afternoon and evening opportunities for individuals and families. Help is also needed for setup Friday, October 9, and to unload the pumpkin truck on Saturday, October 10. Visit our website homepage and click on Pumpkin Patch for details and volunteer sign-up.

Planning Ahead: Medicare & Annual Enrollment • October 11

Licensed Medicare Specialist Diane Paris will share practical information about Medicare options and changes for 2027 at 12:30 p.m. in Thomas Parlor. This free session includes lunch and is part of Planning Ahead: A Series on Aging & Care. Advance registration is requested. Visit our website homepage for details and registration.

First Steps: Exploring the Bible • Begins October 15

Want to feel more comfortable and confident reading the Bible? First Steps: Exploring the Bible offers a welcoming place to begin or return with fresh curiosity. Led by Roz Townes, this five-week class explores the Bible's big story, God's love and pursuit of people, and the light of Christ woven throughout Scripture. Meets Thursdays, October 15–November 12, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. in Arbon Dennis Chapel, Room 240, or via Zoom. Books are available at no cost in the church office.

Fall Festival • October 18

Celebrate the season at our free community Fall Festival from 2:00–4:00 p.m. on the Birmingham First front lawn, or in the Christian Life Center in case of bad weather. Bring the whole family for bounce houses, face painting, pumpkin carving, kettle corn, a petting farm and more. Invite your friends and neighbors for a fun fall afternoon at Birmingham First!

Home Produce Table Wrap Up

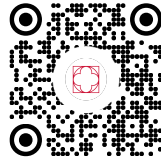
Thank you to everyone who supported Hunger Ministry's Home Produce Table this summer! From June 15 through September 13, fresh produce and flowers from Micah 6 and members of our congregation helped raise \$1,350 for Hunger Ministry, supporting local organizations providing hunger relief in our community. A special thank-you to Micah 6 for the abundance of produce and to Steve Read and Mike Stephens for transporting it to Fellowship Hall each week.

BULLETIN COVER

This week's window celebrates World Communion Sunday. Observed on the first Sunday in October, this day invites us to remember that Christ's table is wider than any one congregation, denomination, language, or nation. As Christians around the world share in the bread and cup, we celebrate the unity we have in Jesus Christ and give thanks for the many ways God's grace is at work across the global church. This day reminds us that, though our traditions may differ, we are joined together in one body, called to love, serve, and bear witness to the hope of Christ for all people.

(located in the Sanctuary's East Chancel wall, South panel)

For more information about Birmingham First, or to make an online donation, please visit our website at www.gatheredhereforgood.org, or scan the QR code with your cell phone's camera.



Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr., Senior Pastor
Rev. Chad Oyer, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth Hurd, Associate Pastor
Casey Proch, Executive Director Worship, Music & Operations
Doris Hall, Organist

Rev. Gary Haller, Bishop Laurie Haller,
Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish, & Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter,
Pastors Emeriti

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