

# Order of Worship 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 1, 2024, 9:00am

\*\* PRELUDE Con Spirito Arne
Marva Doucet

WELCOME Pastor Kristi Garner

CALL TO WORSHIP Norma Mushen

Leader: Together we gather to reflect on the essence of true faith, as

revealed through the practical wisdom of James.

All: Let us come with hearts ready to be transformed by the call

to live out our faith through action and love.

Leader: May our faith be more than words, embracing the call to listen

deeply, act justly, and extend compassion to all.

All: Let us commit to walking the talk, letting our lives be a

testament to God's grace and righteousness.

Leader: As we journey together, may our actions reflect our faith, shining

brightly in every interaction and decision we make.

All: May our lives speak on the goodness within us, nurtured by

God's love, and may we be empowered to spread that love

to a world in need. Amen.

\*Opening Hymn O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing UMH 57, vs.1-4

\* GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Kristi Garner

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Kristi Garner

**OFFERING** Terry McLean

(Place your offering in the offering plate as it is handed down the pew. You can also give electronically using the QR Code at the check-in table or text "give" to 281-377-3665)

OFFERING ANTHEM How Can I Keep From Singing
BCUMC Chancel Choir; Wendy Bergin, flute

\* **DOXOLOGY** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 94

\* SCRIPTURE James 1:17-27

Read by Norma Mushen

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God.

SERMON Do Be Do Be Do Pastor Kristi Garner

#### \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

#### \*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:

Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

### Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

#### Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

#### 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.

#### GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(You will receive the elements as you walk out. The Lord's Table is open to anyone who will come and receive grace.)

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

#### Invitation to Christian Discipleship

(Those desiring to join the church through profession of faith or transfer of membership are invited to text "join" to the pastor, 832-773-4901)

* HYMN OF INVITATION	Here I Am, Lord	<i>UMH</i> 593, vs.1,3
POSTLUDE	Open My Eyes, That I May See Marva Doucet	R. Thomas
* SENDING FORTH		Pastor Kristi Garner
BENEDICTION	Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus	UMH 462 (Refrain)

\*\* Please silence all electronics
\* Please stand if you are able

## Weekly Prayer

Blessed are you, ever-creating God, in your image, our lives are made; in your glory, we offer all the work of our hearts hands, and minds. Blessed are you, O God, now and forever! Blessed are you whose work is repaid, for by your work, and by the payment you receive your lives and the lives of others around you and around the world are blessed. We thank God for you day by day. Blessed are you whose work is unpaid, who offer what you can to enrich the lives of others, through time, talents, skill, strength, and love. We praise God for your generous labor! Blessed are you who seek work but have not found it, or whose work

now is not yet what it may be yet still you seek, that your gifts may be shared more fully. We praise God for your diligent seeking and pray you may soon find! Yours is the glory in their labors. Yours be the glory in all our lives, in Jesus' name. Amen.

https://christian.net/resources/labor-day-prayer/