



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* Ellingboe  
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:<sup>1</sup> 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, 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.**



*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/>