

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.

Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.

Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort.

Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.

*Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Stephanie Huddleston

Introit

"Rain Down"

Jaime Cortez, 1991

Rain down; rain down your love on your people.

Rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Everyone come! You who are thirsty, come.

People: We who are struggling to make ends meet, come.

Leader: We who squander all that we have, come.

People: We who are longing to share with others, come.

Leader: Come and listen! God draws near and gives loving kindness.

People: God enters in and offers tender mercy to the weary.

Leader: God teaches us again how to share as community.

People: God helps us to be a new people grounded in forgiveness and peace.

***Hymn**

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

#408

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace that day by day we might move closer to the people you would have us be. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

#654

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:2-15

Choir Anthem

“Glory To God in the Highest”

Arlen Clarke, 2010

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Life’s not Fair! Praise God!”

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

***Hymn**

“All Who love and Serve Your City”

#351

Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Doxology”

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn

"Jesus Calls Us"

#720

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!



All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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*Postlude

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Pastors: Steve A. Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: David Parrott

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolytes: Devin Griggs, Nate Angel

Greeters: Liz Blakeslee, Cathy Thum

David grew up and went to school throughout the state of Iowa, but recently moved to London, Ohio in the summer of 2020 with his wife, Stephanie, after she graduated with her PhD in chemistry from Iowa State University. They will be celebrating their 3rd wedding anniversary this September. David and Stephanie can often be found gardening and riding their tandem bicycle on the trails surrounding London. They love to spend time with their furry children (Minnie, a 2 year old Staffordshire terrier, and Charlie, a 10 year old Mini Rex rabbit). If you happen to find yourself at the Madison Health Hospital in London, you might see David, as he recently started working there as a phlebotomist and lab technologist.