

Sunday, August 31, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S FOCUS: HOSPITALITY: Here is a specific imperative to treat strangers like family — or maybe better! How are we doing with that? If we look at this through the lens of the Golden Rule, does that change how we live out this imperative?

PRELUDE — Betsy Foushee

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST — Lin**

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #185 “When Morning Guilds the Skies”

1 When morning guilds the skies my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised.
Alike, at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!

2. The night becomes as day when from the heart we say: May Jesus Christ be praised!
The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!

3. Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised!
In heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th'eternal song through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

***CALL TO WORSHIP — Bonnie Clark**

One: We come before God as a loving community.

Many: We seek to live in peace with our neighbors.

One: We come before God as a caring community.

Many: We seek to offer food to the hungry, homes to the homeless, and hope to the hopeless.

One: We come before God as a committed community.

Many: We seek to be in relationship with all your people in ways that honor you and bring about your grace-filled kingdom on earth.

One: As we worship this morning, may we be inspired to find new ways to love our God and our neighbors.

ALL: Amen!

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

SPECIAL MUSIC —

HYMN

TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S STORY — Lin

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 — Bonnie Clark

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

MESSAGE

“Family”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

UMH #432 “Jesu, Jesu”

REFRAIN: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love show us how to serve the neighbor we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. REFRAIN
2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near us and far away. REFRAIN
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love,
All these are neighbors to us and you. REFRAIN

4. Loving puts us on our knees, silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you. REFRAIN

OFFERTORY — Betsy Foushee

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Bonnie Clark

ALL: Everlasting and Unchanging God, in a world that shifts and sways, you remain our firm foundation. You have called us to a life of mutual love, teaching us to serve, welcome, and give with generous and joyful hearts. Bless these gifts we offer today, that they may extend your love to those who are in need of your justice and mercy. Shape us into a people whose generosity reflects your own, that through our giving, our faith family will enlarge to include all your people. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin [are there any joys or concerns today?]

All: 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.

***CLOSING HYMN** TFWS #2172 "We Are Called"

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!

REFRAIN: We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

2. Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more! REFRAIN

3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love! REFRAIN

***BENEDICTION** — Lin

POSTLUDE — Betsy Foushee

Prelude/Postlude—Betsy Foushee
Offertory—Betsy Foushee
Organ —
Special Music —
Liturgist — Bonnie Clark

Accomp.—Betsy Foushee
Song Leader— Bonnie Clark
Violin — Rae Ann

Children's Message— Lin