

Sunday, November 2, 2025 – 9:30 am
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S FOCUS: PENITENCE. Jesus honors Zaccheus for his penitence. How would we respond if we were there? Would we be happy for Zacchaeus or be jealous of Jesus' attention to him?

PRELUDE — Scott Anderson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST — Lin

OPENING HYMN UMH #89 “Joyful, Joyful” (vs. 1-3)

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forests, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

CALL TO WORSHIP — Bonnie Clark

One: We gather, with the company of the faithful:

Many: those who know the way to the kingdom and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.

One: We gather, remembering the ones we call saints:

Many: those who made compassion their day job, and those who have no day named after them.

One: We gather, praising God for all those who have shaped our faith:

Many: those who showed us the dance steps of heaven and those who taught us to play the instruments of joy.

All: Today, through their eyes, may we all get a better view of the living Christ, and may it transform us!

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

HYMN

TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Lin

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1-10 — Bonnie Clark

¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

MESSAGE

“The View From the Cheap Seats”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Insert “Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone” (W&S #3104)

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found; was blind but now I see.

2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my sins relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

REFRAIN

My chains are gone, I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. REFRAIN (2x)

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine. But God who called me here below,
will be forever mine, will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

OFFERTORY — Scott Anderson

DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Bonnie Clark

All: Redeemer God, we thank you for never giving up on us. We stand amazed at your endless grace, given generously and without price. In gratitude for your transforming love, we give to you — generously and without strings — a portion of what you have already given us. Receive

these gifts as expressions of our thanksgiving and praise, and our commitment to live as you intend. We pray in the name of the one who offers salvation to all, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

HONORING ALL SAINTS IN PRAYER — Rev. Lin Cheek

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — Lin

One: Almighty God, we have erred ... and have done that which we ought not to have done.

Many: Lord, we confess all this to you.

One: We are thankful, O God, ... to the glory of your holy name.

Many: Lord we humbly ask all this of you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE — Lin

One: If we confess our trespasses, ... cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Many: Thanks be to God.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR COMMUNION — Bonnie & Lin

Adapted from "*Prayer of the Day*" by Thom Shuman

Bonnie: If we would but listen, we could hear them:
The bus driver who sang school songs with us,
And the coach who whispered encouragement before sending us in to play;
The teacher who never gave up on us,
And the friend who talked to us when no one else would.

Lin: If we would but look, we could see them:
The grandfather with dimpled knees from playing marbles with his grandkids,
And the nana with nicked hands from hammering nails for affordable housing;
The crossing guard who always stepped in front of traffic before we could,
And the couple who have not stopped holding hands since they first said, "I do."

Bonnie: If we would but pay attention, we could learn from them:
The single mother who opens up the world of reading to a new generation,
And the nurse who sits by our child's bed after her shift has ended;
Those who fight injustice in the courtroom,
And those who face down drug dealers on street corners.

Lin: The saints are all around us, so make us mindful of them, dear God.
Help us acknowledge the Body of Christ that is bigger than our imaginations,
larger than our worldview, and grander than our wildest dreams.

Bonnie: Do you see them, there out of the corner of your eye? The people to your right and left, in front of you and behind? They, like you, are God's saints — ordinary, every-day, forgiven people of God.

Lin: Gracious God, we ask you to pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make Christ known to us in the sharing of this Holy Communion. Renew our kinship in Christ, that all may see in us his love poured out for the world. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION — Lin

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to participate in Communion. This table belongs to the Lord, not to the United Methodist Church. You don't need to present an invitation or a membership card, you don't need to memorize the communion litany, you don't need to subscribe to any particular doctrine or creed. All who seek Christ may share in this sacred act, and all means all. So now, with the confidence of children of God, let us ask bask in the presence of the sacred and join together in Holy Communion.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to share in Communion, and all means all. Please come forward when invited by the usher and eat the bread, then drink the cup. For the convenience of all, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and also provide gluten free wafers. When you return to your seat, please take time to pray for those on the prayer list in the bulletin. If you would prefer to receive communion in the pew, please let the usher know and the elements will be brought to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Bonnie Clark

All: Having been united as one Body of Christ by the act of Holy Communion, we thank you Lord for this faith family, for friends present and past, and for those friends we have not yet met. Bless all who honor and love you, now and always. In the name of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

UMH #89 "Joyful, Joyful" (v. 4)

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

BENEDICTION — Lin

POSTLUDE — Scott Anderson

Prelude/Postlude—Scott Anderson
Offertory—Betsy Foushee
Organ —
Special Music — N/A
Liturgist — Bonnie Clark

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

Children's Message— Lin