

Sunday, September 7, 2025 – 9:30 am

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

TODAY'S FOCUS: Discipleship. Jesus asks the disciples to count the cost of discipleship, which could mean leaving everything behind. Could we do the same? Our job? Our house? Our family?

PRELUDE — Betsy Foushee

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

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

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #511 “Am I A Soldier of the Cross?” (vs. 1-4)

1. Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the Lamb,
and shall I fear to own his cause, or blush to speak his name?
2. Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize, and sailed through bloody seas?
3. Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace, to help me on to God?
4. Sure, I must fight, if I would reign; increase my courage, Lord.
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by thy word.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Inspired by Psalm 139*) — Liturgist

One: No matter how hard we try, we cannot hide from God. No matter where we go, or what we do, God sees us, and knows us. If we try to bury ourselves in work,

Many: God is there!

One: If we try to hide ourselves inside a bottle,

Many: God finds us!

One: If we get lost in our private thoughts,

Many: God hears us!

One: If we run to the furthest corners of the world,

Many: God's hand is on us!

One: We can deny God, we can betray God, we can refuse God, but God still knows us and loves us.

Many: Our God is amazing and we are grateful!

One: God's love knows no limits, there are no boundaries, there is no end to it. We praise the God who loves us beyond our understanding.

All: **All praise and thanks to God!**

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

HYMN

TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Sharon Goldade

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:24-33 — Bonnie Clark

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

MESSAGE

"The Cross"

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

UMH #530 "Are Ye Able"

1. "Are ye able," said the Master, "to be crucified with me?"

"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered, "to the death we follow thee."

REFRAIN: Lord we are able. Our spirits are thine. Remold them, make us, like thee, divine. Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

2. Are ye able to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes,
That his pardoned soul is worthy of a place in paradise? **REFRAIN**

3. Are ye able when the shadows close around you with the sod,
to believe that spirit triumphs, to commend your soul to God? **REFRAIN**

4. Are ye able? Still the Master whispers down eternity,
And heroic spirits answer, now as then in Galilee. **REFRAIN**

OFFERTORY — Betsy Foushee

DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Bonnie Clark

ALL: Gracious God, you have searched us and known us—every thought, every fear, every hope that stirs within. You are our God and we are your people. Receive these gifts, offered not from perfection but from hearts seeking you. Use them to shape a world more reflective of your love and shape us, too, into a people more open, more generous, more faithful. May our giving become a response to your knowing and our generosity a reflection of your grace. In the name of the one who knows us still. Amen.

COMMUNION THANKSGIVING — Rev. Lin Cheek and Bonnie Clark

One: The Lord be with you

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray: It is a good and fruitful work ... joining in their unending hymn:

Many: 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.

One: Holy are you and holy is your work ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Many: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

One: Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit ... the one who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

INVITATION

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Bonnie Clark

All: 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.

CLOSING HYMN

UMH #585 “This Little Light of Mine”

1. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine, everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine;
Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine, all through the night, I’m, gonna let it shine;
All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

BENEDICTION — Lin

POSTLUDE — Betsy Foushee

Prelude/Postlude—Betsy Foushee

Offertory—Betsy Foushee

Organ —

Special Music — N/A

Liturgist — Bonnie Clark

Accomp.—Betsy Foushee

Song Leader— Shelly Anderson

Violin — Rae Ann

Children’s Message— Sharon Goldade