

Sunday, September 21, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S FOCUS: STEWARDSHIP — Jesus wants us to use our money both to help others now, and for our own long-term good. This is not either/or!

PRELUDE — Rhonda Ritter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

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

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #92 “For the Beauty of the Earth” (vs. 1, 3, 4, 6)

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;

REFRAIN: Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight; **REFRAIN**

4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild; **REFRAIN**

6. For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven; **REFRAIN**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Shelly Anderson

One: We hear the words, but sometimes we don't understand them.

Many: Love us anyway, God.

One: We hear the words, but sometimes we don't live them.

Many: Love us anyway, God.

One: We hear the words, but sometimes we don't believe them.

Many: Love us anyway, God.

One: Sometimes, we don't even hear the words.

Many: Creator God, love us through our misunderstanding of you, through our turning away from you, and through our disbelief of you.

One: We hear the words, and we return to God again, and again, and again.

Many: Thank you for loving us, Lord, as only you can.

All: We give you our thanks and praise, now and always.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

SPECIAL MUSIC —

HYMN

TFWS #2233

“Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S STORY — Sue Mercer

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-13 — Shelly Anderson

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

MESSAGE

“The Dishonest Manager”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

UMH #344 “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” (v. 1-3)

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only ask me to follow humbly.

REFRAIN: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,

And while smiling have spoken my name;

Now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there my nets and labor. **REFRAIN**

3. You need my hands, full of caring through my labors to give others rest,
And constant love that keeps on loving. **REFRAIN**

OFFERTORY — Rhonda Ritter

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Shelly Anderson

ALL: Bountiful God, bless the givers and receivers of these gifts, that every day, in every way, these gifts may be used to glorify you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin

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**

UMH #664 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe.

The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us, unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving

give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

***BENEDICTION** — Lin

POSTLUDE — Rhonda Ritter

Prelude/Postlude— Rhonda Ritter
Offertory— Rhonda Ritter
Organ —Betsy Foushee
Special Music — ??
Liturgist — Shelly Anderson

Accomp.— Rhonda Ritter
Song Leader— Scott Anderson
Violin — Rae Ann Norell

Children's Message—Sue Mercer