

Sunday, October 26, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY’S FOCUS: HUMILITY. Jesus tells a parable to help people stay off their high horse. Are their times we suffer from a holier-than-thou attitude — either ours or someone else’s?

PRELUDE — Betsy Foushee

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

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

***OPENING HYMN** TFWs #2032 “My Life Is in You, Lord”

1 My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord;
In you, it’s in you. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; In you, it’s in you.

2. I will praise you with all of my life, I will praise you with all of my strength;
With all of my life, with all of my strength. All of my hope is in you.

3. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord;
In you, it’s in you. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; In you, it’s in you, in you!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 131*) — Eric Presnall

One: Let us not be not proud this morning, but come before our God with all humility;

Many: For God is good, and greatly to be praised.

One: Let us not worry about matters that do not concern us, but leave the God things to God;

Many: For God is good, and greatly to be praised.

One: Let us quiet our hearts and minds and be fully present for our God;

Many: For God is good, and greatly to be praised.

All: Let us praise the name of God and put our hope in the Lord, today and forevermore.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

SPECIAL MUSIC — ??

HYMN

TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S STORY — Sue Mercer

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9-14 — Eric Presnall

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

MESSAGE

“A Pharisee and a Tax Collector Walk into a Temple”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

TFWS #2131 “Humble Thyself In the Sight of the Lord” (2x)

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord

(Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord)

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord

(Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord)

And he (and he) shall lift (will lift) you up, higher and higher,

and he (and he) shall lift (will lift) you up

OFFERTORY — Rhonda Ritter

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Eric Presnall**

All: Merciful God, you do not require perfection, only a heart that is open. Receive these gifts, not as a sign of our righteousness, but as a humble offering from those who know they need your grace. Teach us again that generosity begins not in pride, but in gratitude — not in proving our worth, but in trusting yours. May what we give today grow into mercy, justice, and joy in the lives of others and in our own. In Jesus’ name, 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 #410 "I Want a Principle Within"

1 I want a principle within of watchful, godly fear, a sensibility of sin, a pain to feel it near.
I want the first approach to feel of pride or wrong desire,
to catch the wandering of my will, and quench the kindling fire.

2. From thee that I no more may stray, no more thy goodness grieve,
grant me the filial awe, I pray, the tender conscience give.
Quick as the apple of an eye, O God, my conscience make;
Awake my soul when sin is nigh, and keep it still awake

3. Almighty God of truth and love, to me thy power impart;
The mountain from my soul remove, the hardness from my heart.
O may the least omission pain my reawakened soul,
and drive me to that blood again, which makes the wounded whole.

***BENEDICTION — Lin**

POSTLUDE — Rhonda Ritter

Prelude/Postlude—Rhonda Ritter
Offertory—Rhonda Ritter
Organ —Betsy Foushee
Special Music —
Liturgist — Eric Presnall

Accomp.—Rhonda Ritter
Song Leader— Shelly Anderson
Violin — Rae Ann

Children's Message— Sue Mercer