**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Dan Brauner

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5)

L: We lift up our eyes to you, O God, longing for a glimpse of your grace.

**P: We watch for you … and wait, trying to keep awake and aware,**

L: trying not to fall asleep,

**P: trying not to miss your presence, trying not to miss our very lives.**

L: Today, we come to you awake—clothed in faith, decked out in love,

**P: wearing hope for all to see.**

**A: Come and meet us here, O God, in your mercy and your grace.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5)

**Holy One, have mercy on us. When we cannot take any more of this world, we know we must turn to you. When our souls have had their fill of trouble and unease, we seek your protection. We come to you in faith and love, in the hope of your salvation, now and always. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN ***Grace Alone*** TFWS #2162

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1 Thessalonians 5, Matthew 25)

**We are not always awake, O God. We are not always aware. We do not always pay attention—to others, even to you. We do not always treasure your blessings—the gifts you give to us, the time you spend with us, the people you offer us, the work you entrust to us. We take it for granted, God. We take you for granted. We wander away. Help us wake up, Holy One. Remind us to be aware. Show us the way back to you. And help us find meaning in you once more.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (1 Thessalonians 5, Judges 4)

The God of mercy hears our prayers and holds them close. When we wander away into places of death and despair, God is always ready to bring us back. For no matter where we go or what we do, we belong to God and God is there for us. We belong to the one who clothes us in faith

and hope and love. We are held so close in God’s hand that nothing can ever tear us away.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**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 TO THE OFFERING (Matthew 22)

Jesus said, “Give to God, what belongs to God.” We are God’s people, created in God’s image. Everything we are, and all that we have, comes from God. Out of gratitude for the abundance of God’s gifts, let us bring our offering in gratitude and praise.

**\***DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH #94

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

**5**What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe —as the Lord has assigned to each his task. **6**I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. **7**So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. **8**The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. **9**For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE  ***Give Thanks***  TFWS #2036

SERMON ***Stewardship: God’s Plan for Your Success*** Rev. Shon

\*CLOSING HYMN ***We Are God’s People***  TFWS #2220

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

—[Romans 15:1](https://bible.faithlife.com/bible/niv/Romans15.1)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation,

 and the World.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** Join us on November 22nd at 6:00 pm.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** December 24th at 5:00 pm

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER:** Please send information to the office no later than November 24th.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**: for the upgrade of the sound and video system at the sanctuary and

 next year’s church budget.

**BELL RINGERS NEEDED:** Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign needs volunteers for this.

**NO WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS THIS WEEK.**

**ADVENT SEASON BIBLE STUDY:** “Heaven and Earth” by Will Willimon with Video. 4 Sundays

 from Nov. 26 – Dec. 17. 10:30 am. Facilitator: Pastor Inwha. Contact the office for textbooks.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift-giving or personal use, consider

 Scrip cards**.** Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346.

**USHER/GREETERS**: Don and Vangie Stender

**FELLOWSHIP:** Esther Shon

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Tue Nov. 28 Nomination & Leadership Committee 5:30 pm

Wed Nov. 29 Youth/Confirmation Class 5:30 pm/7 pm

 Sun Dec. 10 Church Conference 3:00 pm

1. Who watched as Moses floated in the basket down the Nile?
2. Who would have nothing to do with the author of 3 John?
3. In the book of Philemon, who is Paul’s fellow prisoner?
4. James used the example of which Old Testament figure to demonstrate how the prayers of a

righteous man can have powerful results?

1. How does the author of 1 John often refer to his readers?
2. What does Solomon say about sin?
3. Who pretended to be mad to avoid capture and death at the hands of an enemy king?
4. Who was the priest of Bethel during the time of Amos?
5. Who was the grandson of Samuel?
6. Who was the high priest during the time of Zechariah?

**Answers:** 1. His sister Miriam, 2. Diotrephes, 3. Epaphras, 4. Elijah, 5. Children, 6. That no one does not sin, 7. David, 8. Amaziah, 9. Heman, 10. Joshua

**BLACK RIVER FALLS**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

 

**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

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