



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
September 16, 2018 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING & PRAISE

PRELUDE Holly Carroll & Connie Sublett

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Doug Martin, *Lay Leader*

* INTROIT *I Will Call upon the Lord* TFWS 2002

* CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 95

One: O come, let us sing to our God
 and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**All: We lift our hearts and voices in joy and thanksgiving
 for being here together in the presence of our beloved God.**

One: Come, let us worship this amazing God to whom we belong.

All: We will listen for God's Word and live in the hope it inspires.

* HYMN OF PRAISE *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vv. 1-5)* UMH 57

* PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us pray together:

**All: Loving and caring God,
 we come this morning seeking wisdom and guidance for our lives.
 Open us to your words of life and love and truth.
 May we proclaim with our tongues what we know in our hearts.
 In this time of worship, help us more fully understand
 what it means to be a disciple,
 a follower of the way of Jesus,
 and a pilgrim on the path of wisdom.
 May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts
 be acceptable to you, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 3:1-12
 (pg. 230, New Testament, pew Bible)

CONFESSION & PARDON

One: Our words can leave a legacy of pain or a long-lingering joy.
 Yet we fill the air with our words, oblivious or dismissive, of their effect,
 of the lives changed, for better or worse, by our careless chatter.
 May God hear our confession, as we pray together:

**All: Gracious God, as you spoke forth creation into being,
 so you have gifted us with creative speech
 that we may utter words of love, wisdom, and grace.
 But often our tongues betray the faith that we have claimed in Jesus:
 instead of love, we malign others with our gossip;
 instead of wisdom, our words reveal our thoughtlessness;
 instead of grace, our voices join in the cacophony of the world's rage.
 Like a small fire that sets a forest ablaze,
 our words can quickly release a flood of consequences.
 Forgive us, gracious and creative Word of God.
 Teach us the wisdom of careful speech,
 the power of blessing,
 the healing of forgiving,
 the gift of truth-telling;
 and give us the courage to speak out,
 to do our part in filling the world with your life-giving word.**

Moment of silent confession

One: God hears our cries for mercy and forgiveness
 and never ceases to speak words of hope and reconciliation.
 May we receive the forgiveness God offers us in Christ Jesus,
 as we recommit ourselves to speaking God's love into the world.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE

* GATHERING MUSIC *This Is the Day* UMH 657

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

