



# TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 13, 2024

11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING & PRAISE

PRELUDE

Jean Williams & Connie Sublett

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Sasser, *Lay Leader*

\* INTROIT

*Through It All*

UMH 507

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 22

One: In a world ravaged by war;  
in a community wounded by weather and loss;  
in a time filled with anxiety and frustration;  
we cry out with the Psalmist:

**All: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning?**

One: Our schedules offer testimony to our frantic search for meaning.  
We consume all we can afford and live at an exhausting pace.

**All: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but you do not answer.**

One: Slow us down, loving God.  
Let us be still in your presence.

**All: Yet you alone are holy.  
In you our ancestors trusted, and you delivered them.  
To you they cried and were saved.  
In you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

UMH 117

\* PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us pray:

**All: God, you promise never to forsake us, but to bring us to new life.  
Nurture us with your presence in this time of worship  
that we might find sustenance for all of life's struggles.**

Meet us in our deepest doubts when we feel abandoned—  
drowning in our fear of your absence.

Visit us in the tension between our yearning and our anger,  
that we may know the comfort of your mercy and grace.

In the name of the One who courageously ascended the cross  
so that we might be reconciled to you and one another,  
we pray. Amen.

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

pg. 471, Old Testament, Pew Bible

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word:

**All: Thanks be to God!**

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

One: Let us willingly embrace that which we believe is true—  
we can come to the seat of grace, bringing our prayers of confession  
to the One who is filled to overflowing with mercy and hope.

**All: Loving Creator, we come to you with our questions,  
our struggles, and our doubts.  
There are times when our burdens feel unbearable  
and the darkness seems so thick.  
God of Light, continue to shine for us in the darkness.  
Help us to seek the love and care of others  
and to share our joys and burdens together.  
Remind us that we do not walk this journey alone.**

*(moment of silent confession)*

One: We know God walks with us through the valley of the shadow,  
though sometimes it is difficult to feel God beside us.

Rest assured, while the valley is dark, God will see us through.

There is nothing God cannot take:

our anger, our bitterness, our frustrations, and our doubts.

God can take it all and still transform us into something new.

Know that you are forgiven, loved, and never alone.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

WELCOMING MUSIC

*Where Children Belong*

TFWS 2233

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SUNG RESPONSE *Jesus Loves Me* UMH 191 (v. 1)

MESSAGE *In the Crucible of the Question* Pastor Fleischer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROFESSING OUR FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* UMH 881

**THANKSGIVING**

OFFERTORY *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Jackie Livesay

\* DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**SENDING FORTH**

\* HYMN OF DEDICATION *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* UMH 474

\* COMMISSION & BLESSING

\* SUNG DISMISSAL *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* TFWS 2219

\* POSTLUDE Jean Williams & Connie Sublett

\* Indicates congregation standing (if able)  
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal  
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

