



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 15, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING & PRAISE

PRELUDE Jean Williams & Connie Sublett

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Nancy Sasser

* INTROIT *Jesus, Name Above All Names* TFWS 2071

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With the prophets of old and all who have spoken truth to power:
All: We come to celebrate the justice and mercy of God!

One: With the Virgin Mary, who pondered the mysteries of faith in her heart:
All: We come to magnify the One who lifts the poor and the lowly.

One: With the apostle Paul and all who have shared the Good News
of Christ's victory over death, we come to offer our praise and thanksgiving.
All: May our hymns and our hearts overflow with gratitude.

One: With Stephen and all the martyrs of our faith,
we come to recommit ourselves to follow the way of the cross:
**All: May your Word inspire us to more faithfully
live out our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

One: With your entire Church across the globe, we come to sing your praise, O God.
All: All glory be to you, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

* HYMN OF PRAISE *Make Me a Captive, Lord* UMH 421

* PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us pray:

**All: O Lord, in the spirit of Christ, we come to worship you
with all that we have and with all that we are.
In this time of worship, free us from the tyranny of the urgent,
the voices and tasks clamouring for our time and attention,
that we may honor you with our whole presence.**

**Anoint our hearts with your Spirit.
Touch our minds with your wisdom.
Give strength to our weary bodies.
Bring peace to our troubled souls.
Remind us of the meaning of your cross that we may
know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
each and every day of our lives.
In the strong and holy name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:27-38, NRSV

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word:
All: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Insert

WELCOMING MUSIC *Where Children Belong*

TFWS 2233

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

MESSAGE *Identity Theft* Pastor Fleischer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROFESSING OUR FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* UMH 881

THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* 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

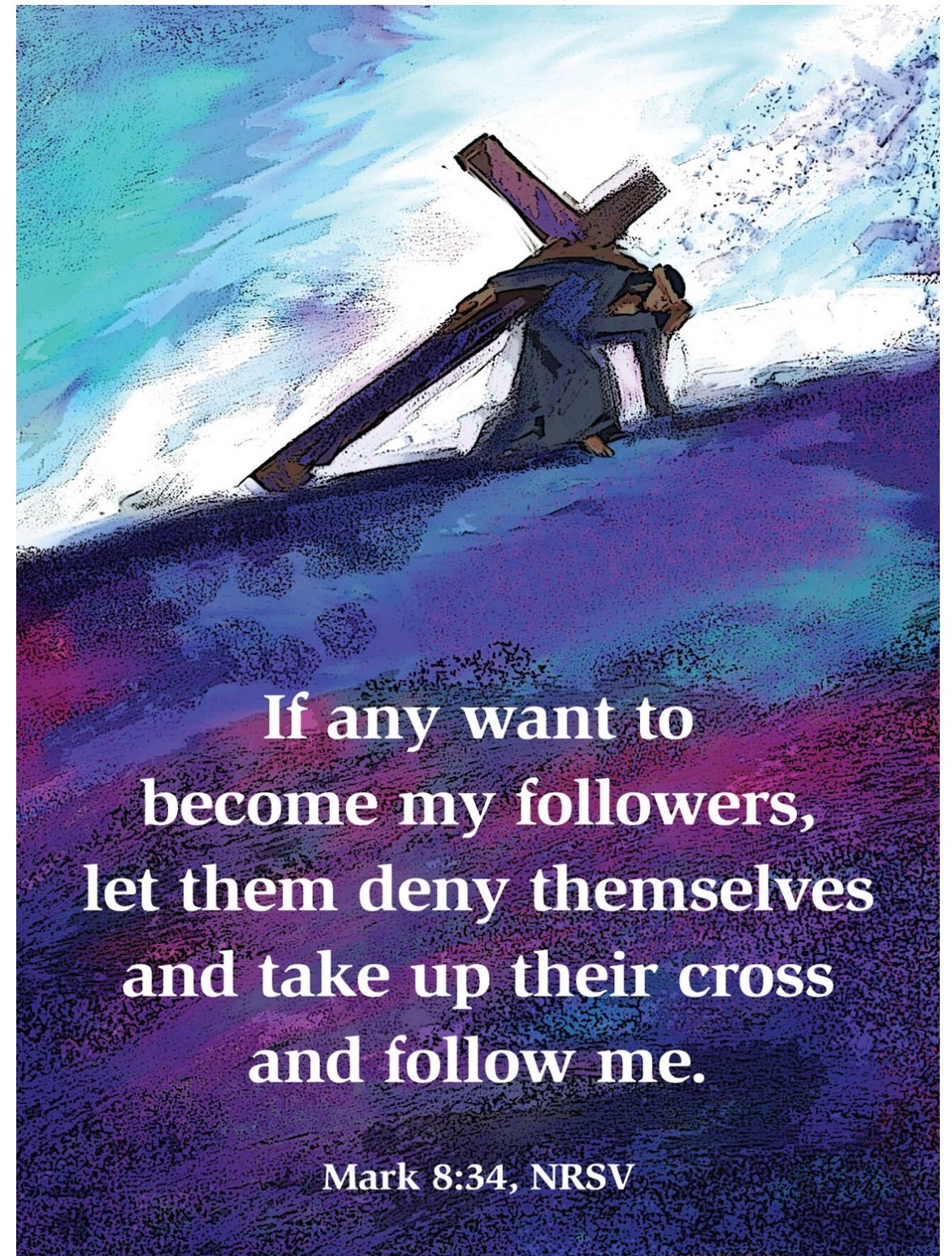
* HYMN OF DEDICATION *Lord of the Dance* UMH 261

* COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

* SUNG DISMISSAL *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* TFWS 2129

* POSTLUDE Jean Williams & Connie Sublett

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



**If any want to
become my followers,
let them deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow me.**

Mark 8:34, NRSV

PRAYER OF DISCIPLESHIP

One: Jesus said: “Whoever among you wants to be great
must become the servant of all.
For the Son of Man himself has not come to be served but to serve,
and to give his life to set many others free.

Teacher, we hear your call:

All: Lord Jesus, help us to follow.

One: Jesus said: “Unless you change your whole outlook
and become like little children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Teacher, we hear your call:

All: Lord Jesus, help us to follow.

One: Jesus said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

Teacher, we hear your call:

All: Lord Jesus, help us to follow.

One: Jesus said: “You must love your enemies, and do good
without expecting any return and without giving up hope on anyone;
so will you be children of the Most High,
because God indeed is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.
Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.”

Teacher, we hear your call:

All: Lord Jesus, help us to follow.

One: Jesus said: “This is my Father’s glory,
that you may bear fruit in plenty and so be my disciples.
If you dwell in me, as I dwell in you, you will bear much fruit;
for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Teacher, we hear your call:

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One: Jesus said: “There is no greater love than this,
that you should lay down your life for your friends.
This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.”

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One: Jesus said: “If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,
will save it.

Teacher, we hear your call:

All: Lord Jesus, help us to follow.

One: Jesus said: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
You, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you, even to the end of the world.”

Teacher, we hear your call:

All: Lord Jesus, help us to follow. Amen.

Blessing in the Shape of the Cross

—Jan L. Richardson

Press this blessing
into your palms—
right, left—
and you will see
how it leaves its mark,

how it imprints itself
into your skin,
how the lines of it
meet
and cross

as if signaling you
to the treasure
that has been in
your grasp
all along.

Except that these riches
you will count
not by what you hold
but by what you release,
by what you lose,
by what falls from
your open hands.



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