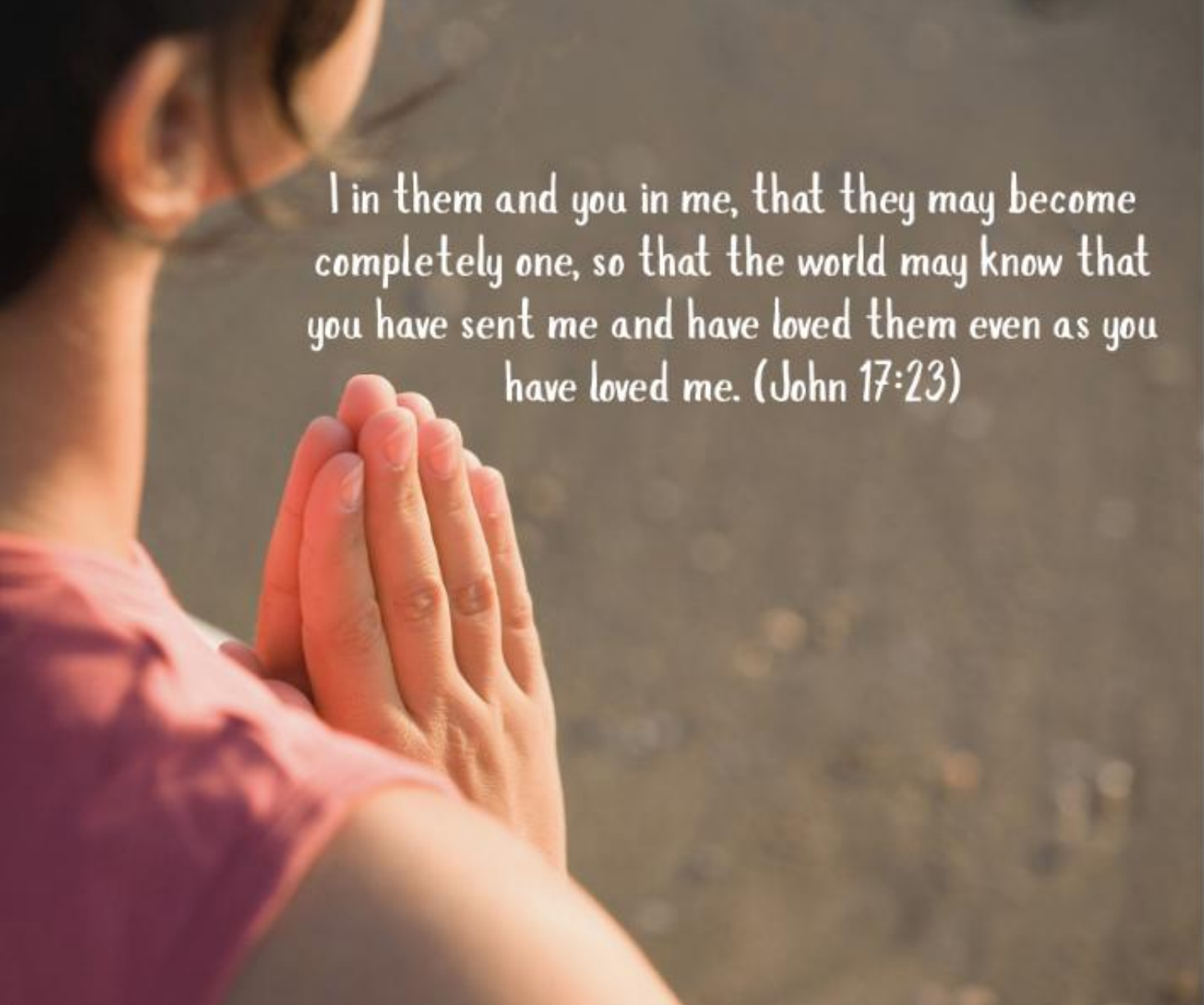


A photograph of a person from the chest up, seen from the side. They have dark hair and are wearing a red shirt. Their hands are clasped together in a prayer position, held out towards the right. The background is a blurred, outdoor setting with warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Overlaid on the image is a quote in a white, serif font.

I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:23)

August 16, 2026

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(†) *The congregation is invited to stand or (Sit with Gusto)*
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

Children of God, we gather as people
who have received new life in Jesus Christ.

**We come to set our minds on Christ,
who surrounds us in love.**

The world tries to distract us with anxious rumors,
worrisome lies, and misleading half-truths.

**We come to set our minds on Christ,
who surrounds us in love.**

In this place, we gather to remind, remember,
and renew our commitment to dwell in the love of Christ.

**We come to set our minds on Christ,
who surrounds us in love.**

Children of God, come! Let us worship God,
who clothes us in new life and renews us in Grace.

**Come, let us worship as we set our minds on Christ,
who surrounds us in love.**

† HYMN OF PRAISE

Father, We Have Heard You Calling

3150

F F Gm/F C F/A F Gm/Bb C F

1. Fa - ther, we have heard you call - ing to your church in ev - ery age;
 2. Je - sus Christ, our faith's per - fec - ter, priest and ad - vo - cate a - bove.
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, fire of heav - en, fall up - on us here to - day.
 4. Praise we bring to God the Fa - ther, praise we bring to God the Son,

9 F F Gm/F C F/A F Gm/Bb C F

for a sign of true de - vo - tion for a sac - ri - fice of praise.
 We would reach our bro - ken na - tion with the truth of your great love.
 Bring re - lease, bring tears, bring pas - sion, then trans - form your church, we pray.
 praise to God the Ho - ly Spir - it, praise to you, the three in one.

17 Am Dm Gm C F Dm Gm Csus C

In this place where you have brought us, may we al - ways seek to be
 So trans - form our fee - ble wit - ness, may we al - ways live to be
 As you pour your grace up - on us, may we al - ways thirst to be
 Tri - ni - ty of love in - spire us, may we al - ways strive to be

25 F/A Gm/F F C F Bb F/C C7 F

one in love and one in wor - ship — chil - dren of e - ter - ni - ty.
 one in love and one in wor - ship — chil - dren of e - ter - ni - ty.
 one in love and one in wor - ship — chil - dren of e - ter - ni - ty.
 one in love and one in wor - ship — chil - dren of e - ter - ni - ty.

Congregation: Parts

WORDS: Gareth Hill

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; harm. from *The English Hymnal*

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HYFRYDOL

87.87 D

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† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Glory,

**you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
to reveal your love for all people.**

We confess that our sin and pride

sometimes hides the brightness of your light.

We turn away from the poor;

we ignore cries for justice;

we do not strive for peace.

Forgive us God.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,

and renew us once again with your spirit,

so that, as forgiven and renewed people,

we may reflect the love

and life of Jesus Christ into our world.

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our God is a God of Grace and mercy and love for all people.

Know that our sins have been forgiven.

May we be strengthened in all goodness.

Since we have been raised with Christ,

let us seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God

Thanks be to God

WE PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson:

[Acts 1:1-11](#)

(Pg. 884) **

Holy Spirit, living breath of God
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me,
give me faith for what I cannot see,
give me passion for Your purity,
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace,
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made.
Show Your power once again on earth,
cause Your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise,
lead us on the road of sacrifice.
That in unity the face of Christ,
will be clear for all the world to see.

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TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

130 God Will Take Care of You

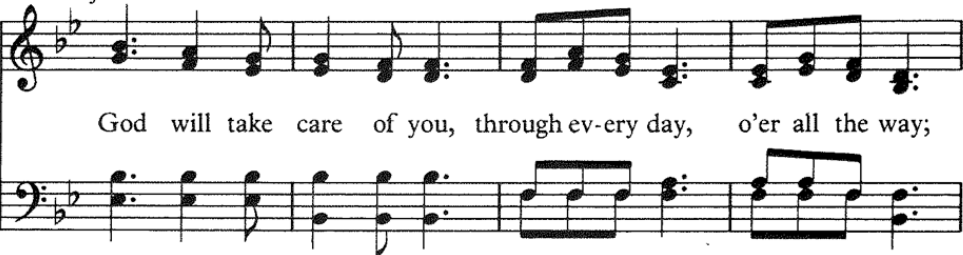


1. Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;
 2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
 3. All you may need he will pro-vide, God will take care of you;
 4. No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;



be-neath his wings of love a-bide, God will take care of you.
 when dan-gers fierce your path as-sail, God will take care of you.
 noth-ing you ask will be de-nied, God will take care of you.
 lean, wea-ry one, up-on his breast, God will take care of you.

Refrain



God will take care of you, through ev-ery day, o'er all the way;



he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

WORDS: Civilla D. Martin, 1904
 MUSIC: W. Stillman Martin, 1905

MARTIN
 CM with Refrain

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PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,

ALL: Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.' The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with a clear melody and harmonic accompaniment.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GREATOREX
Irr.

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SERMON:

Encountering God Through Prayer -3
Unity in Prayer and Purpose

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

† PSALM

Psalm 133

S T Kimbrough, Jr.

Swedish folk song

harm. by Lahrae Knatterud

RESPONSE (*Easter & General*)

U - nite us, Lord, u - nite us

by your ev - er - last - ing love.

R

- ¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!
- ² It is like the precious oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!
- ³ It is like the dew of Hermon
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
**For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life for evermore. R**

Harm. © 1983 Gracia Grindal and Lahrae Knatterud

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER SONG

Ubi Caritas

Refrain

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; *Where charity and love are found, God is there*; Taizé Community, 1978

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Words: Paraphrase 1 Corinthians 13:2-8, © 1978 Taize Community Music Jacques Berthier © 1979 Les Presses de Taize/ GIA Publications Inc. agent in America; Reprinted and recorded with permission under [OneLicense.net](#) # A-711296.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (See Above)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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OFFERTORY MUSIC

† DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

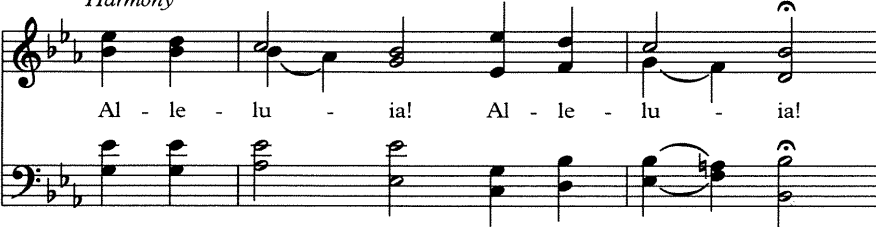
94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison



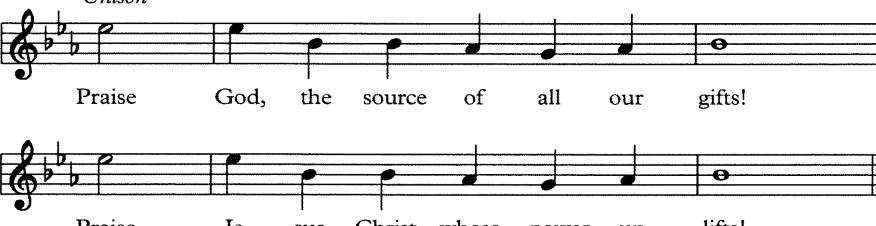
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;
praise God, all crea - tures here be - low:

Harmony



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)



Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

O church of God, united to serve one common Lord,
proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord.
Christ ever goes before us we follow day by day
with strong and eager footsteps Along the upward way

From every land and nation the ordered ranks appear;
to serve one valiant leader they come from far and near.
They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord,
and place their sure dependence upon His saving word.

Though creeds and tongues may differ,
they speak O Christ of Thee;
and in Thy loving spirit we shall one people be.
Lord may our faithful service and singleness of aim
proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name

May Thy great prayer be answered
that we may all be one,
close bound, by love united
in Thee, God's blessed Son;
to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright,
that souls which grope in darkness
may find the one true Light.

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† Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist:

Ken Manning

Video and Sound Engineer:

Kent Marzoli

Cover Image:

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Special Music:

Choir members and other worship artists from the congregation.

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***Worship elements by "UNFOLDING LIGHT"

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Looking Ahead

Common Lectionary Readings for August 23, 2026

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

[Exodus 1:8-2:10](#) / [Psalm 124](#)

[Romans 12:1-8, 29-32](#) / [Matthew 16: 13-20](#)



[First United Methodist Church](#)

"Feed the Need"

Putting Our Faith into Motion

By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul

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