

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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October 8, 2023

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

() The congregation will please stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

PRELUDE: Prayer of Julian of Norwich Carson Cooman

God of your goodness, give yourself to me,
for you are enough for me.

Only in You do I have everything.

Only in You do I have everything.

Amen.

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*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

It is you, God, who have created us
and set us free from all that oppresses.

We sing your praise!

It is you, gentle Christ,
who have transformed our lives with God's love.

We declare our thanks!

It is you, Holy Spirit,
who give us a new way to live.

We give to you our whole being.

May we worship you in all we do!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Baptized in Water



1. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Cleansed by the
2. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Dead in the
3. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Marked with the



blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, Trust-ing his
tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing, Freed and for -
sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther, We are his



prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b.1932, © 1982, Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (Administered by Hope Publishing Co.)
Tune: BUNESSAN, 5 5 8 D; Gaelic melody; acc. by Marty Haugen, b.1950

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*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess we have tried to make this world our own.

We have lived under the command of our own will.

Without realizing,

we have submitted to the rule of our fears and desires.

Forgive our willfulness

and return us to the guidance of your grace,

the law of your love,

Christ's one commandment,

that we love as we have been loved.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

While we wandered in fear,

God was with us, offering us hope and courage.

God is with you this day,

this very minute, lifting you from emptiness to fullness,
brokenness to wholeness.

This is the good news!

God is always with you.

Thanks be to God! ***

*Passing the Peace of Christ

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: [Philippians 3:4b-14](#) (Pg. 955) **

ANTHEM

Lord of the Dance

John Ferguson

I danced in the morning when the world was young

I danced in the moon, and the stars, and the sun

I came down from Heaven and I danced on the Earth

At Bethlehem I had my birth

REFRAIN

Dance, then, wherever you may be

I am the lord of the dance said he

And I lead you all wherever you may be

And I lead you all in the dance said he

I danced for the Pharoah and the pharisees

They wouldn't dance, they wouldn't follow me

I danced for the fishermen James and John

They came with me so the dance went on

REFRAIN

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame

The holy people said it was a shame

They ripped me and they stripped me and they hung me high

Left me there on the cross to die

REFRAIN

I danced on a Friday when the world turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body; they thought I was gone
But I am the dance, and the dance goes on

REFRAIN

They cut me down And I leapt up high
I am the life That'll never, never die
I'll live in you If you'll live in me
I am the Lord Of the Dance, said he

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

DECLAN ROLAND MEEHAN

INTRODUCTION

Pastor: The sacrament of baptism symbolizes the love
by which God reaches out to us even when we are very young.
We are here today to declare that God loves Declan
and to offer ourselves as the instruments of that love in his life.

Parents: Because of God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ
and the life of celebration this love brings,
we want to have Declan baptized
into the life and faith of this community.

We ask God's guidance in helping Declan
to grow to respect himself and others.

We bring Declan here today with joy,
accepting the trust that has blessed us with his life.

Lay Leaders: On behalf of the congregation,
we say to you, Patrick and Jordan,
that Declan has with us here
a community that is filled with love for him,
our homes are his homes,
and our resources are his resources.

Our faith will be taught to him.

We pray that we might fulfill our vows to you and to God.

Children: We are grateful
for Declan's coming into our church family,
and we want to share the love and faith with him.

**Congregation: We, as a community,
promise to care for Declan by our actions and style of life.
We will teach him the joys of God's world.
We will love him.
We are by this affirmation inseparably bound with him.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

Do you, as Christ's body, the church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

THANKSGIVING OVER WATER

Let us pray. God, our Creator,
we thank you for your faithfulness promised in this sacrament,
and for the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

As we baptize Declan with water,
baptize us with the Holy Spirit,
so that what we say may be your word,
and what we do may be your work.

By your power,
may we be made one with Jesus Christ
in common faith and purpose. **Amen.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
to bless this gift of water and Declan who receives it,
to wash away his sin
and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life,
that, dying and being raised with Christ,
he may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

BAPTISM

Declan Roland Meehan,
I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER

Almighty God, giver of life,
you have called us by name
and pledged to each of us your faithful love.
We pray for your child Declan.
Watch over him.
Guide him as he grows in faith.
Give him understanding,
and a quick concern for neighbors.
Help him to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ,
who was baptized as your child and servant
and who is our risen Lord.

God of Grace, we pray for Declan's parents,
Patrick and Jordan.

Help them to know you deeply,
to love with your love,
to teach your truth,
and to tell the story of Jesus to Declan,
also to Gavin and Brogan,
so that as a family they may hear your word
and know of your presence. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Declan is now received into the love and care of FUMC.
See what love God has given us
that we should be called children of God, and we are!

BLESSING

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name
and pledged to each of us your faithful love.
We pray today for your blessing on Declan,
that you will watch over him
and guide him as he grows in faith.
Remind us of the promises of our own baptism
and renew our trust in you.
Make us strong to obey your will
and to serve you with joy,
through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

CHILDREN MESSAGE: (WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT)

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

My Hope Is Built

368

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -
4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and righ-teous-ness. I dare not trust the
rest on his un - chang-ing grace. In ev - ery high and
port me in the whelm-ing flood. When all a - round my
may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote, 1834
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1863

THE SOLID ROCK
LM with Refrain

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GOSPEL LESSON: [Matthew 21: 33-46](#)

(Pg. 803) **

Please remain standing for the Gospel Lesson

For the word of God in Scripture,

For the word of God among us,

For the word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

71

Glory Be to the Father

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 musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

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

GREATOREX
Irr.

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SERMON Ho-Soon Han

“Strange Math”

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Verses



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:



Salt for the King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
Bring forth the King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
Bound for the King-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and



life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!
bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!
seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!
love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Lord, Prepare Me / Haz de mí, Dios

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
Haz de mí, Dios, hoy, un san - tua - rio vi - vo; pu - ro y

ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
san - to, fiel a ti. Dan - do gra - cias, se - ré por

liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you. you.
siem - pre tu san - tua - rio, has - ta el fin. fin.

To repeat *Last time / Última vez*
Para repetir

Text: John Thompson, b.1950, and Randy Scruggs, b.1953, © 1982, Full Armor Music Publishing Co.; tr. by Gerardo Oberman, b.1965, © 2019, GIA Publications, Inc.

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INVITATION TO PRAYER:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: "And also with you..."

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

[The Lord's Prayer](#)

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (As above)

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

Honoring our volunteers.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Improvisation

Kevin G. Lindsay

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
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LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

HERE I AM, LORD

Dan Schutte

Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who
2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
3. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est



1. made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
2. break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
3. bread I will pro-vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
3. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

FANFARE

Improvisation by Kevin G. Lindsay

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist: John Wilderman
Video and Sound Engineer: Alex Wilderman
Altar Flowers:

Image on Cover: Valente, Liz. **Fill Me**, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59323> [retrieved October 3, 2023]. Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>.

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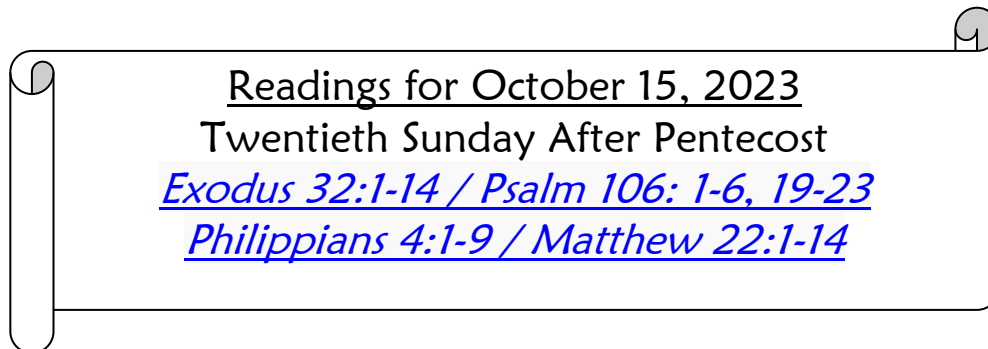
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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at *unfoldinglight.com*

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Looking Ahead



Readings for October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

[Exodus 32:1-14 / Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23](#)

[Philippians 4:1-9 / Matthew 22:1-14](#)

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