

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023 + 9 AM

Who Do You Say?

The Journey Begins Worship Series



We Gather as God's Children

Words of Welcome

Prelude *Prelude & Toccata on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*
arr. J. Wayne Kerr

+ Call to Worship

Family of God, as we gather today,

Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are our Messiah, the Son of the living God!

Family of God, as we gather today,

the Holy Spirit asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are our Comforter, Advocate, and Sustainer!

Family of God, as we gather today,

God the Father asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are our Creator, Provider, and Healer!

Family of God, as we gather today,

the Triune God asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are Love that creates, saves,

and enfolds us into the family of God!

**May we be instruments of Love in all that we are
and all that we do. Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.
Used with permission from umcdiscipleship.org*

+ Hymn

Christ for the World We Sing

UMH 568

We Grow in God's Word

With disciples of every time and place,
let us listen for the word of God among us.

Our ears and hearts are open.

First Lesson— Exodus 1.8-2.10 (NRSVUE)

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson — Matthew 16.13-20 (NRSVUE)

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Who Do You Say”

+ Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

UMH 585

Commissioning of The Porch Student Ministers

Dear friend,

you have been called by God

and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church.

This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility.

It recognizes your special gifts

and calls you to work among us and for us.

In love we thank you for accepting your obligation

and challenge you to offer your best

to the Lord, to this people, and to our ministry in the world.

Live a life in Christ and make him known

in your witness and your work.

Do you this day acknowledge yourself

a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world?

I will.

Will you so live that you enable this church

to be a people of love and peace?

I will.

Will you do all in your power to be responsible
to the task for which you have been chosen?

I will.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

pour out your blessings upon these your servants
who have been given particular ministries in your church.

Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service.

Keep before them the example of our Lord,

who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all.

Let them share his ministry and consecration,

that they may enter into his joy.

Guide them in their work.

Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge

that through them your purposes are accomplished;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards.

Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them

in the responsibilities to which they have been called,

giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers?

We will.

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Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Pastorale

Robert Lau

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*Loving and generous God:
As we offer our gifts this day,
we confess that when confronted with Jesus' question,
"Who do you say that I am?"
our answer is ambivalent at best.
Even when we get the words right,
we know our lives give a different answer.
We turn away from the suffering and oppression of your
children.
We accumulate wealth and prestige
and ignore the poor and powerless.
You give and hold nothing back,
and we give from our excess
and resent being asked to do more.
Help us to respond with the answer
that comes from the center of our being
and that is demonstrated in our living.
In Christ, we pray. Amen.*

Adapted from Matthew 16.13-20. Used with permission from umcdiscipleship.org

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

You are the Seed

UMH 583

+ Benediction

Family of God, go from this place led by the Triune God who loves you, saves you, and sustains you, that in our following, we may be agents of goodness and blessing wherever we go. Amen.

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.
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Postlude

Make a Joyful Noise

Mary McDonald

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Morning Prayer:

Today, O God,
help me receive your revelation
that Jesus is the Messiah,
the Son of the living God.
It is in his name I pray. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Holy God,
for anything I did this day
that was pleasing to you,
I give you thanks and
pray that you use me to your glory;
for anything I did this day
that was displeasing to you,
I ask your forgiveness
and pray that you redeem me
for your glory. Amen.