

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration



Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost

September 24, 2023 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children

Words of Welcome

Prelude

+ Call to Worship

Whether we embrace God's call in our lives
or try to avoid it,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether we are longtimers or latecomers
in the life of faith,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable
or bring hardship,

God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

We praise God's name forever and ever!

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+ Hymn

Trust and Obey

UMH 467

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 — Jonah 3.10-4.11 (NRSVUE)

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson — Matthew 20.1-16 (NRSVUE)

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Fish and Fairness”

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

Blessing of a Home - In Gratitude for the work of Help Build Hope

Loving God,

grant to this home the grace of your presence,

that you may be known to inhabit this dwelling

and defend this household;

May love, peace, and joy fill this home,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit

lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology

UMH 95

*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

*God of the harvest,
we are privileged to be counted
among those whom you have called,
graced to have been given your work to do,
blessed to receive more than we will ever earn.
Accept, we pray, our thanksgiving and offerings,
and do what you choose
with what already belongs to you.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

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We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Only Trust Him

UMH 337

+ Benediction

Postlude

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