

September 24, 2023, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)

Prelude

Gathering Music: Sunshine Gospel Singers: *When God Dips His Love in My Heart*

Welcome

†Congregational Hymns

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought (United Methodist Hymnal #128 Verses 1 & 3)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (United Methodist Hymnal #133 Verses 1 & 2)

God Will Take Care of You (Cokesbury Hymnal #94 Verses 1 & 2)

Joys & Thanksgiving Prayer

Offertory: Celebration Choir: *All That Hath Life and Breath*

Doxology 94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Prayer

Gentle Shepherd (UM Hymns for the Family of God #596)

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Prayer Response

Gentle Shepherd

†Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that your whole church may be one with you as you are one with us in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When 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. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

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. The 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.

But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When 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."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."

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. 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?"

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Invitational Hymn

Trust and Obey (United Methodist Hymnal #467 Verses 1 & 4)

Receiving of New Members

(Congregational Response)

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you at Christ United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction (The Light of Christ Taken into the World)

Benediction Response

God Will Take Care of You (Cokesbury Hymnal #94 Chorus)

Postlude