

September 8, 2024, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)

Prelude

Gathering Song: Sunshine Gospel Singers: *Keep on the Firing Line*

Welcome

Congregational Hymns

Open Our Eyes Lord (Faith We Sing Hymnal #2086)

Living for Jesus (Cokesbury Hymnal #173 Verses 1 & 3)

Blessed Assurance (United Methodist Hymnal #369)

Acolyte Dedication

Congregation: **We pledge ourselves to support you in your ministry to this church, and we are grateful for your service and dedication as Acolytes and leader, and as part of our worship team.**

Congregational Prayer: **Dear Lord, we thank you for these your children who are taking a large step in their walk with you by dedicating themselves to serving you and your church as Acolytes and part of our worship team. Help us as a congregation and body of Christ to work together to put you first in our lives, and to dedicate ourselves each day to your work. Amen.**

Joys & Thanksgiving Prayer

Offertory: Celebration Choir *All Who Dwell in the Shadows*

Doxology 95

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

Celebration Ringers- Call to Prayer - *Abiding Joy*

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

Give Thanks (Faith We Sing Hymnal #2036)

†Prayer of Illumination

O God, Wisdom of the universe, open our hearts and minds to the scriptures today. Grant us the gift of wisdom, that we may discern your way and live justly and graciously amid the struggles of this world. Amen.

Scripture James 2:1-4, 8-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?

For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy, mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon *Doers of the Word- Making Distinctions*

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Invitational Hymn

Open My Eyes that I May See (United Methodist Hymnal #454 Vs 1, 2 & 3)

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

Benediction Response

Blessed Assurance (United Methodist Hymnal #369 Chorus)

Postlude