

October 15, 2023, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)

Prelude

Gathering Music: Sunshine Gospel Singers *Just Tell Them When You Saw Me, I Was on My Way*

Welcome

†Congregational Hymns

*It's Me, It's Me, O Lord* (United Methodist Hymnal #352 Verses 1 & 3)

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (United Methodist Hymnal #140 Verses 1 & 3)

Joys

Thanksgiving Prayer

Offertory: Celebration Choir *Three Shaker Songs*

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.**

Call to Prayer: The Four Hoarsemen +2 *How Long Has It Been*

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: The Four Hoarsemen +2 *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

†Prayer of Illumination

**Liberating God, you give us commandments not as a burden to bear but as an invitation to live the life you have for us. Open our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so we are ready to accept your invitation and might become a people who bear the fruit of the freedom and new life you give us. Amen.**

Scripture

**Exodus 32:1-14**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took

the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel. The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Fear and Forgetfulness in the Desert of Sinai*

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Invitational Hymn *Jesus Calls Us* (United Methodist Hymnal #398)

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

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (United Methodist Hymnal #140 Chorus)

Postlude