

Order of Worship
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:30 am – November 12, 2023

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

When He Cometh

arr. Gordon Young

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Kyle Hanks, organ

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Shelley Wiltfang, liturgist

Creator God, who claims us as your own,
we bring our full selves to worship today.

Our happiness and our sorrow,
our singing and our crying,
our strengths, and our failures—
we carry it all.

Teach us to trust that your faithfulness endures in all the seasons and circumstances of our lives.

Help us to know that all that we are is bound to you and teach us to rest on your steadfast love as the source of our gratitude and joy as we, your sheep, follow you wherever you lead. Amen.

Adapted from the prayer written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2023.

OPENING HYMN

I Come with Joy

UMH 617

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1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.
5. Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways, and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.

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.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25: 1-13 (NRSV)

Shelley Wiltfang, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

PREPARATION HYMN

Cry of My Heart
CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / Song # 844980

TFWS 2165

Refrain:

It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.

1. Teach me your holy ways, O Lord, so I can walk in your truth.
Teach me your holy ways, O Lord, and make me wholly devoted to you.

Refrain:

It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.

2. Open my eyes so I can see the wonderful things that you do.
Open my heart up more and more and make it wholly devoted to you.

Refrain:

It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.

MESSAGE

Pastor Diane Rehfield

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Keep Your Lamps!

arr. Victor C. Johnson

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, Director; Kyle Hanks, Pianist

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Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; the time is drawing nigh!
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Soon this journey will be over; the time is drawing nigh!
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; the time is drawing nigh!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord God, we are grateful for the gifts of your love, your compassion, and your mercy. You call us to follow in the footsteps of your son, our savior, Jesus the Christ, and yet you forgive us when we fail, giving us so many opportunities to get it right. For these gifts that we offer today, we ask your blessing. May they reach those who feel unloved, those who are consumed with guilt, those who believe they are worthless, and shine your grace upon them. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Would I Have Answered When You Called

TFWS 2137

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1, Would I have answered when you called, "Come, follow, follow me!"?
Would I at once have left behind both work and family? Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?

2. Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee, on roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security? Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew, where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?

3. Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, “Crucify!” when on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky? Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone, a dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?
4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways, nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise. I only pray that when you call, “Come, follow, follow me!” you’ll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully. and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia, Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow
 Kyle Hanks, organ

arr. Kyle Hanks

Prayer Requests

St. James UMC—Pastor Connie Tampkin
Pacoima First UMC—Pastor Luis Garcia
 Lucy Lyman—Husband Don passed away

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

FUMC Staff:

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