



ARVADA
United Methodist Church

**6750 Carr Street • Arvada, CO 80004 • 303.421.5135 •
www.arvadaumc.org**

Sunday, September 20, 2026; 8:15 and 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Prelude *Aire for Brass* Jeffco Brass
(Morley, arr. Walter Barnes)

Lead On, O King Eternal Jeffco Brass
(Traditional, arr. Bob Hurrell)

Greeting Rev. Matt Franks

Congregational Greeting

***Opening Hymn** *We Gather Here, O God*
(Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)
TERRA BEATA ("This is My Father's World")

We gather here, O God, and it's a joy to see
the blessings of your gift of love in this community.
Some gather in one place to offer thanks and praise;
some join online— and we all find new hope for these new days.
O Christ, you call us here! We know your love's embrace.
We're freed from sin and welcome in all those who seek your grace.
We worship, learn and serve; we join in times of fun.
We gladly share in work and prayer; together, we are one!
O Spirit blowing free, O gentle, burning blaze,
The gifts you give help us to live in faithful, loving ways.
The world cries out in need, and many cry, "Enough!"

In this new time, may your church find new ways to share your love.

Litany of the Day

8:15 - Veronica Ritterholz

10:00 - Cheryl Busch

Leader: Generous God, we enter your vineyard not by our own merit, but because grace has called us to work.

People: Forgive us when we compare our hours, status, and wages, fearing that another's blessing diminishes our own.

Leader: Prevenient God, your love meets the forgotten in the marketplace long before they know to seek you.

People: Remind us that whether we arrive at dawn or dusk, your full wage of grace greets us all the same.

Leader: Sanctifying God, John Wesley taught us that your grace surrounds us and continually transforms our hearts.

People: Break our systems of hierarchy and scarcity so we may rejoice when the last are made first.

All: God of surprising grace, enlarge our vision until every laborer finds dignity and belonging in your vineyard. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lauren Boyd

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

Jeffco Brass

Offering

Offertory Music
(Natalie Sleeth)

Joy in the Morning

Jeffco Brass

Scripture

Matthew 20:1-16 Common English Bible

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

"Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I'll pay you whatever is right.' And they went.

"Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing

around, and he said to them, 'Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?'

"'Because nobody has hired us,' they replied.

"He responded, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.' When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 'These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.'

"But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn't I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?' So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last."

Response After Reading

Pastor: The Scripture of faith for the people of faith.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Sermon

"In Grace, Not Fairness"

***Closing Hymn**

A Man Owned a Vineyard

(Carolyn Winfrey Gilette & W. Howard Doane)

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11 with Refrain

A man owned a vineyard and needed a crew
to tend to his land — there was plenty to do.

He called out to people downtown in the square,

"Come work hard all day and I'll pay you what's fair."

God, you call and you send; there is work here to do.

There's your whole world to tend; may we garden for you!

O Lord, in your vineyard may we seek to be

the workers who tend to your justice and peace.

He went back a number of times on that day;
he called to new workers and promised fair pay.
Can we but imagine those first workers' rage
when all those who labored received the same wage?
God, the gift of your grace comes as quite a surprise.
For your mercies embrace even latecomers' lives.
May all who have worked long and hard humbly learn:
Your grace is a gift and not something we earn.

He called the complainers and said, "This is true —
that I kept my word and I gave you your due.
I share with compassion; I'm loving and kind.
I care for all people and give what is mine!"
God you give what is yours, more than what we deserve;
may we reach out in love where you call us to serve.
May we who have witnessed your grace gladly share
Your justice and love with your world everywhere.

*Benediction

Sending Forth Music *You Are My Sunshine/This Little Light of Mine*
(Jimmie Davis and Harry Loes, arr. Zack Smith) Jeffco Brass

***Please stand as you are able.**

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