

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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I Can Be Brave

August 23, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Barb Sabath

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **We come, ready to be brave and courageous Christians!**

Leader: It's not easy to be brave and courageous sometimes. The power to do so doesn't come from ourselves.

People: **We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Even if that means being brave in the most difficult moments.**

Hymn

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

(verses 1, 2, and 5)

1. Re - joice, ye pure in heart; re - joice, give
 2. Your clear ho - san - nas raise, and al - le -
 3. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing
 4. At last the march shall end; the wea - ried
 5. Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom

thanks, and sing; your glo - rious ban - ner
 lu - ias loud; whilst an - swering ech - oes
 as ye go; from youth to age, by
 ones shall rest; the pil - grims find their
 we a - dore, the Fa - ther, Son, and

wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 up - ward float, like wreaths of in - cense cloud.
 night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.
 heaven - ly home, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Ho - ly Ghost, one God for - ev - er - more.

Refrain
 Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
 Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce,

Opening Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the courage that comes through our relationship with you. Thank you for being a strong foundation and the ultimate “how to” guide for life. Thank you for being everything we need when we feel like we’re not enough. In a world where many things go wrong, help us to have the courage to do what is right. Amen.



Pastor's Preview

Chorus

Sanctuary

(sing twice)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Scripture Lesson

Esther 4:10-17

Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Message

I Can Be Brave

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Todd Kendall

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Standing on the Promises

(verses 1, 2, and 4)

1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King,
2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
3. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
4. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fail,

through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,

glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Refrain

Stand - ing, stand - ing,
 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing, stand - ing,
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Benediction

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Greg Sewell

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