

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com

abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Spiritual DNA:

Connecting FAITH, Creative HOPE, and Catalytic LOVE

August 10, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Judy Pine

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Whoever you are, wherever you are, come! Now is the time to worship.

People: **Fly like a bird, O Lord. Protect, defend and strengthen your people!**

Leader: Eagles soar beautifully on strong wings. So do they who put their hope in the Lord!

People: **We soar on your strength, O God. Keep us wrapped in your love and grace as we fly together. Amen.**

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

(verses 1, 2, and 4)

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;
 2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-flect thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,
 4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;

hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
 love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing all with-in its span.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our broth-er, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
 joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, of your bountiful goodness keep us from all things that may hinder us. Make us ready in both body and soul, so we may cheerfully and lovingly accomplish those things which you would have done. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our hope, we can do all things. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Chorus

Let There Be Love

Let there be love shared among us, let there be love in our eyes.
May now your love sweep this nation. Cause us, O Lord, to arise.
Give us a fresh understanding of brotherly love that is real.
Let there be love shared among us. Let there be love.

Special Music

Holy Ground
Ernie Roberts

Christofer Beatty

Litany of Love

1 Corinthians 13:3-8a,14:1a

(The Message/NIV Compilation)

Leader: Love is patient, never giving up.
People: Love cares more for others than for self.
Leader: Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
People: Love doesn't strut,
Leader: Doesn't have a swelled head,
People: Doesn't force itself on others,
Leader: Isn't always "me first,"
People: Doesn't fly off the handle,
Leader: Doesn't keep score of other's wrongs,
People: Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Leader: Takes joy in the truth,
People: Love always protects,
Leader: always trusts,
People: always hopes,
ALL: Love never dies. ... now abide these three
Leader: Faith steadily,
People: Hope unswervingly,
Leader: Love extravagantly!
People: And the greatest of the three is love.
ALL: Go after a life of love as if your life depends on it—because it does. Make LOVE your aim!

Message

Spiritual DNA:
Connecting FAITH, Creative HOPE, and Catalytic LOVE

Rev. Brian C. Roberts

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

The Love of God

Frederick H. Lehman

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!

Hymn

Blessed Assurance

(verses 1 and 3)

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine!
2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light,
3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest;

O what a fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine!
vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my sight;
I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest,

Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove
watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,



born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

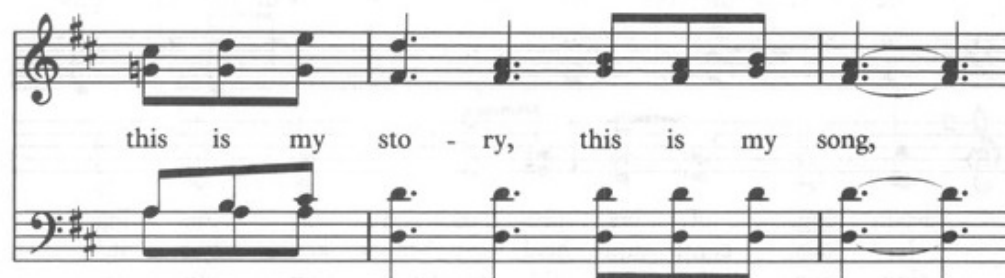
Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song,



prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



this is my sto - ry, this is my song,



Celebration of Holy Communion

Service of Word and Table II

UM Hymnal Page 12

Benediction

Postlude

Sinfonia in B flat

G. F. Handel

Welcome, Pastor Brian!

It's always a blessing to have Pastor Brian Roberts here at AUMC for worship! He is currently the Executive Director of the UM Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey. He has served in the past as our District Superintendent, and (of course) as our Pastor!