

**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**



---

# Identity Stolen – Identity Reclaimed

August 18, 2024

Today's Lay Reader: David Wade

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart

**Call to Worship**

Leader: How good it is to live in unity

**People: to join our hearts and minds in one accord.**

Leader: How wonderful it is to gather as Christ's disciples

**People: to be in the presence of God.**

Leader: Before the rocks cry out,

**People: let us sing God's praises and witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.**

## Hymn

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past,  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne,  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood,  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight,

our hope for years to come, our shel-ter from the  
 still may we dwell se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine  
 or earth re - ceived her frame, from ev - er - last - ing,  
 are like an eve - ning gone; short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!  
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.

## Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, you have called us here from different walks of life and knit us into a unified family of faith. As we open our hearts to you, show us the way to open our hearts to others. In your presence today, O God, may we worship together without exclusion and rejoice together without ceasing. Amen.**

## Pastoral Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Chorus

#### He Has Made Me Glad

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,  
I will enter His courts with praise.  
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made,  
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.  
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,  
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.  
He Has made me glad, He has made me glad,  
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

#### Scripture Lesson

#### Romans 12:9 – 13:14

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and

you will receive its approval, for it is God's agent for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the agent of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's agents, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God  
People: **Thanks be to God**

**Message**                    *Identity Stolen – Identity Reclaimed*

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**    Change My Heart, O God    Douglas Wagner

**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

## God Will Take Care of You

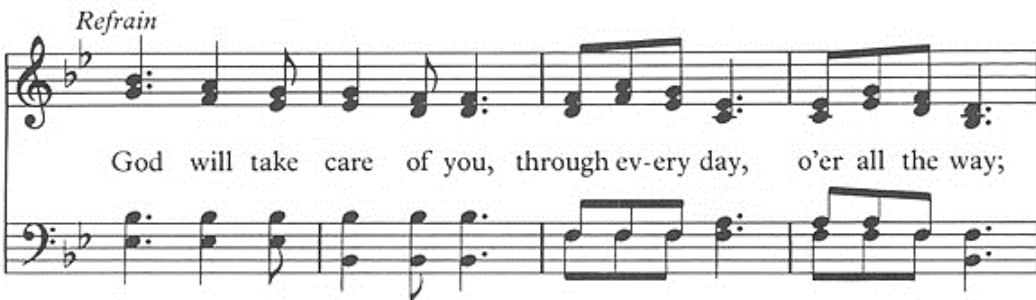


1. Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;  
 2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;  
 3. All you may need he will pro-vide, God will take care of you;  
 4. No mat - ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

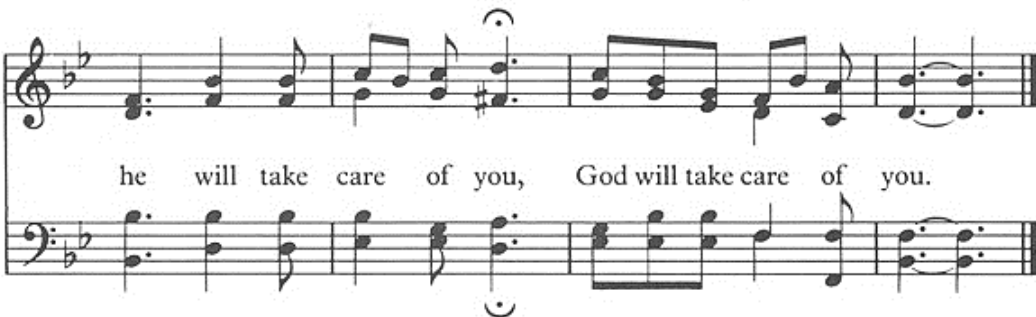


be-neath his wings of love a-bide, God will take care of you.  
 when dan-gers fierce your path as-sail, God will take care of you.  
 noth-ing you ask will be de-nied, God will take care of you.  
 lean, wea - ry one, up - on his breast, God will take care of you.

*Refrain*



God will take care of you, through ev-ery day, o'er all the way;



he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Postlude in D

G. Armstrong Gibbs

---

Rev. David Cobb is preaching this morning while the Ledfords have some time off. Rev. Cobb was the pastor of Absecon Presbyterian Church for many years, and now he sings in our choir, teaches at VBS, and works at the Senior Center.