

## The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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# Joy is a Gift

June 21, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Barbara Sabath

## Welcome

## Call to Worship

**Leader:** Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11am 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, acknowledging the gift of joy that God offers us!**

**Leader:** Joy, like grace, is not something we earn. It is something God freely gives. And like grace, those who acknowledge joy show visible signs of that spiritual gift.

**People:** **Joy inspires a life full of love, peace and kindness. If we are joyful, the world should observe joy in our actions.**

## Hymn

## Faith of Our Fathers

1. Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still, in spite of dun-geon,  
 2. Faith of our fa - thers, we will strive to win all na-tions  
 3. Faith of our fa - thers, we will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with joy  
 un - to thee; and through the truth that comes from God,  
 all our strife; and preach thee, too, as love knows how

*Refrain*

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word!  
 we all shall then be tru - ly free. Faith of our fa - thers,  
 by kind-ly words and vir - tuous life.

ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death.

## Opening Prayer

God of joy, thank you for that spiritual gift. Joy is a gift given in good times and bad. Joy is a gift given when we're faithful and when we miss the mark. Joy is a gift given that must then be shared. Through joy, help us to serve as your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

## Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

**Chorus**

**All Heaven Declares**

All Heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord  
Who can compare with the beauty of the Lord  
Forever He will be the lamb upon the throne  
I gladly bow the knee and worship Him alone

I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord  
Who once was slain to reconcile us to God  
Forever will be the lamb upon the throne  
I gladly bow the knee and worship Him alone

**Women's Chorus**

**He Touched Me**

William Gaither

**Scripture Lesson**

**Galatians 5:22-26**

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

**Message**

*Joy is a Gift*

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**

**Romanza**

Richard Purvis

**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

## Trust and Obey

*(verses 1, 2, and 4)*

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
 2. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share,  
 3. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love  
 4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet,

what a glo - ry he sheds on our way!  
 but our toil he doth rich - ly re - pay;  
 un - til all on the al - tar we lay;  
 or we'll walk by his side in the way;

While we do his good will, he a - bides with us still,  
 not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
 for the fa - vor he shows, for the joy he be - stows,  
 what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;

and with all who will trust and o - bey.  
 but is blest if we trust and o - bey.  
 are for them who will trust and o - bey.  
 nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

*Refrain*

Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er way to be  
hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Toccatina**

**Carl Simone**