## The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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# The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

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Director of Music and Organist



Road Trip:

# God is With Us Near and Far

September 14, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Judy Pine

Welcome

Prelude Adoration Richard Purvis

# **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 encounter our God who promised to be with

us!

Leader: In Corinth, Paul found companions for the journey and courage to

speak God's word.

People: Through this church we, too, we find strength in Christ and

encouragement in one another.

Hymn

See the Joyful Sun Ascending

(verses 1 and 4)



#### **Opening Prayer**

Faithful God, You are the One who goes with us, no matter how near or far from home. Just as You encouraged Paul in Corinth, remind us today that we are never alone. Calm our fears, strengthen our voices, and open our hearts to Your Word. As we gather in worship, be with us, bind us together in Your Spirit, and help us to find good friends through faith in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### The Lord's Prayer

Chorus In His Time

In His time, in His time, He makes all things beautiful in His time. Lord, please show me every day, as You're teaching me your way, That You do just what You say in Your time.

In Your time, in Your time, You make all things beautiful in Your time. Lord my life to You I bring, may each song I have to sing Be to You a lovely thing in Your time.

**Senior Choir** On Eagle's Wings arr. Douglas Wagner

#### Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

#### Scripture Lesson Acts 18:1-11

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila from Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. Every Sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the gentiles." Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household, and many of the Corinthians who heard

Paul became believers and were baptized. One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people." He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Message

Road Trip:

# God is With Us Near and Far

## Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

**Offertory** "Adagio" from Fantaisie

César Franck

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

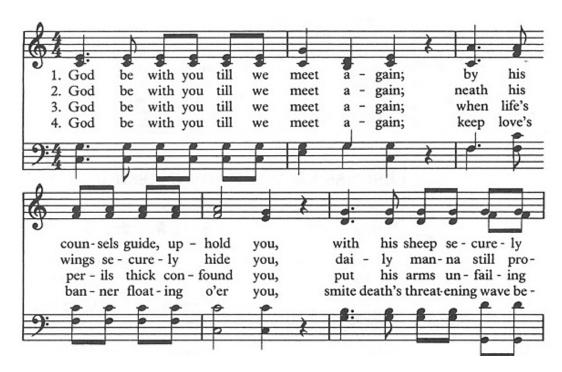
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn

God Be with You till We Meet Again

(verses 1 and 4)





# **Benediction**

Postlude in D Healey Willan