

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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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)

1. See the morn-ing sun as-cend-ing, ra-diant in the
 2. So may we, in low-ly sta-tion, join the cho-ris-
 3. For thy lov-ing-kind-ness ev-er shed up-on our
 4. "Wis-dom, hon-or, power, and bless-ing!" with the an-gel-ic

east-ern sky; hear the an-gel voic-es blend-ing
 ters a-bove; sing-ing with the whole cre-a-tion,
 earth-ly way; for thy mer-cy, ceas-ing nev-er,
 host we cry; round thy throne, thy name con-fess-ing,

in their praise to God on high! Al-le-lu-ia!
 prais-ing thee for thy great love. Al-le-lu-ia!
 for thy bless-ing day by day: Al-le-lu-ia!
 Lord, we would to thee draw nigh. Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Glo-ry be to God on high!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Glo-ry be to God a-bove!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Glo-ry be to God al-way!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Glo-ry be to God on high!

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)

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; by his
2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; neath his
3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun-sels guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se - cure - ly
wings se - cure - ly hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
per - ils thick con - found you, put his arms un - fail - ing
ban - ner float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you;
vide you;
round you;
fore you;

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain
Till we meet, till we meet, till we
(till we meet, till we meet a - gain)

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, (till we meet, (till we meet,

till we meet,
till we meet a - gain) God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in D

Healey Willan