

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Road Trip:

God is With Us When We Go Off Course

August 24, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Lynn Caterson

Welcome

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, from many different roads, to the same place, to worship the same God!**

Leader: Sometimes we don't end up on the road we wanted to be on. While this detour changes our journey, it doesn't end it!

People: **Sometimes we know why our course has changed, sometimes we don't. Wherever we go, God is there.**

Hymn

O Worship the King

(verses 1, 4, and 5)

1. O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove,
 2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
 3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 5. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love;
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,
 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.
 and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

Opening Prayer

Lord, by grace through repentance you have filled us with strength, and we are never going back to the life we once lived. You have filled us with hope, knowing that wherever you lead us, we are called to share your grace and love with the world. Help us proclaim: “the Lord, your God is with you wherever you go.” Help all your people remember that truth even when they go off course. Amen!

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Chorus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts;
Holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of His glory,
The whole earth is full of His glory, Holy is the Lord.

Special Music

How Beautiful
Kathy Fowler

Twila Paris

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 13:17-22

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer, for God thought, “If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.” So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness bordering the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, “God will surely come to you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.” They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Message

Road Trip:

God is With Us When We Go Off Course

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Marvelous Grace

John Innes

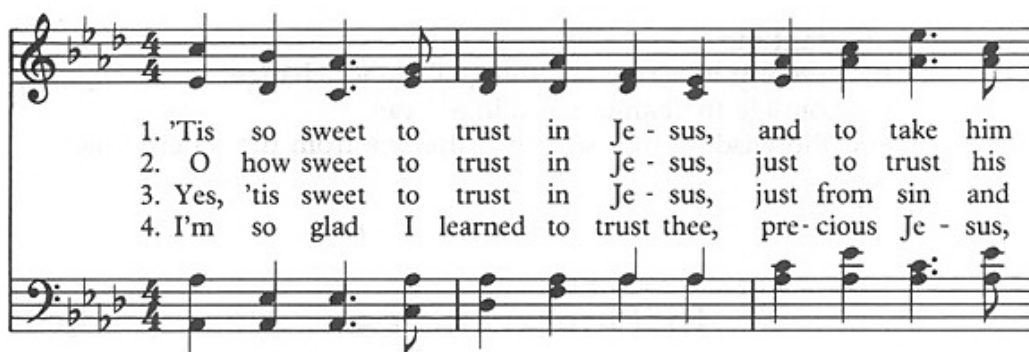
Doxology

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!

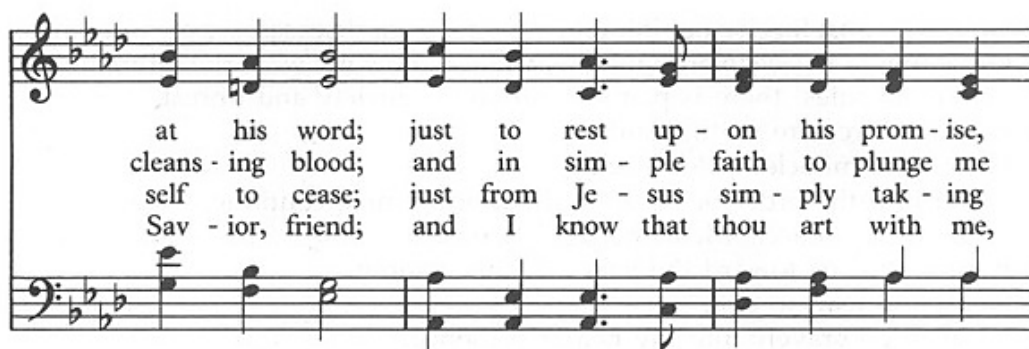
Hymn

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

(verses 1 and 4)

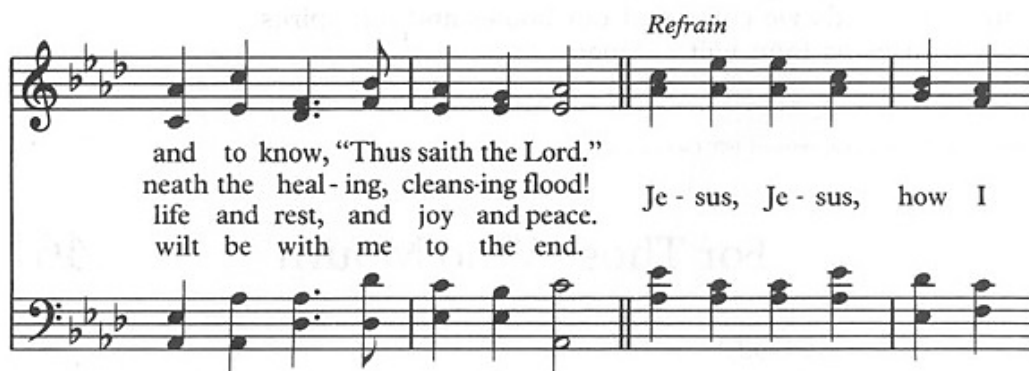


1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, and to take him
2. O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust his
3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and
4. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, pre-cious Je - sus,



at his word; just to rest up - on his prom - ise,
cleans - ing blood; and in sim - ple faith to plunge me
self to cease; just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing
Sav - ior, friend; and I know that thou art with me,

Refrain



and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
neath the heal - ing, cleans-ing flood! Je - sus, Je - sus, how I
life and rest, and joy and peace.
wilt be with me to the end.

trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er! Je - sus, Je - sus,

pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust him more!

Benediction

Postlude

Triumphal March

G. F. Handel