

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**



Trust God to Lead the Way

September 8, 2024

Today's Lay Reader: Melissa Southrey

Welcome

Prelude

Interlude No. 5

Eric H. Thiman

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 find company in Jesus!**

Leader: No matter what is going on, no matter how far away we go, even when no one else is around, Jesus is always with us.

People: **We don't always know what God is up to in the moment. But we do know God is always present. Our job is to go where God leads!**

Hymn

Lead On, O King Eternal

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, we fol-low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con-quest thy tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis-per the sweet a - men of peace.
 for glad-ness breaks like morn-ing wher - e'er thy face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong;
 For not with swords loud clash-ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums;
 Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us, we jour-ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat-tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con-quest; lead on, O God of might.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, thank you for always being with us. Thank you for being with us when we are lonely. Thank you for being with us when we are far from home. Thank you for being with us in happy times and sad times. Thank you for being a constant friend! Help us to guide others into that friendly relationship with you. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

His Name Is Wonderful

His name is won-der-ful, his name is won-der-ful, his name is

won-der-ful, Je - sus, my Lord. He is the might-y King,

Mas-ter of ev-ery-thing; his name is won-der-ful, Je-sus, my Lord.

He's the great Shep-herd, the Rock of all a - ges, al - might-y

God is he; bow down be-fore him, love and a-

dore him, his name is won-der-ful, Je - sus, my Lord.

Senior Choir

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Ruth 1

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope

for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi;
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.
I went away full,
but the Lord has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi
when the Lord has dealt harshly with me
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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

Message

Trust God to Lead the Way

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Brethren We Have Met to Worship

William Moore

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**My Hope Is Built**

1. My hope is built on nothing less than
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness. I dare not trust the
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and
 port me in the whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my
 may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain
 On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal line. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. The accompaniment is a simple harmonic accompaniment consisting of eighth and quarter notes.

Benediction

Postlude

Variations on a Theme by Handel

Darwin Wolford