

ORDER OF WORSHIP
AUGUST 9, 2026

WELCOME

Pastor Kelli

PRELUDE

Dr. Daniel Cummings

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Abbey Reed

Friends, please rise to your feet, or rise in your heart, as we offer our Call to Worship before God.

One: People of God, Christ calls us to be salt and light in the world.

All: We come ready to follow wherever God leads.

One: When the path is difficult, God gives us courage.

All: When the work is great, God gives us strength.

One: We are called to love our neighbors and seek the good of our community.

All: We are called to live our faith with hope and courage.

One: Let us worship the God who sends us into the world in love.

All: We come with joy, ready to shine Christ's light. Alleluia! Amen.

Please remaining standing for our Gathering Hymn, We Are Marching in the Light of God.

***HYMN**

Gather Us In TFWS 2236

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

George Meinecke

You may be seated [pause for folx to settle.]

Friends, please join me as we pray together our prayer for transformation and new life.

God of courage and compassion, thank you for calling us to follow Jesus. Strengthen us when we are afraid and guide us when the way is unclear. Help us speak truth with love and serve others with humility. Give us courage to stand with those who are hurting and hope to those who are weary. Transform us by your Spirit, that we may be faithful witnesses to Christ in the world. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

George Meinecke

Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: God does not send us into the world alone; Christ goes before us, the Spirit walks beside us, and God's love gives us courage for every step. Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST*George Meinecke*

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us exchange signs of Christ's peace with one another.

***HYMN** We Are Marching in the Light of God (vs 1) TFWS 2235-b

SCRIPTURE LESSON*George Meinecke*

Please remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

Today's Scripture Lesson comes from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter five, verses ten through sixteen.

One: Listen for the Word of God.

All: Our ears are open.

Matthew 5:10-16

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[a] on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

One: Friends, this is the Word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson Drop In Choir

SERMON Methodism Still Matters: Love Made Perfect

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** This Little Light of Mine Spiritual

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go...

Jesus gave it to me...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Abbey Reed

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Abbey Reed

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Abbey Reed

As Methodists, faith isn't simply something we believe—it's something we live. John Wesley reminded us that grace changes hearts, and changed hearts change the world. Our offering is one of the ways we put our faith into action, supporting ministries that share Christ's love with our neighbors and our community. Let us give with grateful and generous hearts.

OFFERTORY

Walk Together, Children arr. Moses Hogan

Amanda Porter, soprano

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 17

Invitation to the Table

Pastor Kelli

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through every generation, you have called ordinary people
Meinecke

George

to do extraordinary things through your grace.
When we wandered, you remained faithful.
When hearts grew cold, you kindled new fire.

When the world longed for hope, you raised up witnesses to your love.

In every age, you have renewed your church,
calling us back to the love we had at first.
Through the faith of those who came before us,
through the witness of this congregation,
and through the movement called Methodism,
you have continued your work of grace in the world.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor,
welcomed those who had been pushed aside,
healed the brokenhearted,
and called people into a life of love and grace.

When religion became routine,
Jesus called people back to the heart of faith.
When fear ruled the day,
Jesus taught the way of courage and compassion.
Through his life, death, and resurrection,
you opened the way to new life for all people.

On the night in which Jesus offered his life for us,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

Abbey Reed

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
 as a holy and living sacrifice,
 in union with Christ's offering for us,
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died;
 Christ is risen;
 Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
 and on these gifts of bread and cup.
 Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
 that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
 redeemed by his love and sent by his grace.

Pastor Kelli

Revive us where we have grown weary.
 Renew us where we have lost our way.
 Rekindle in us the love that first called us to follow.
 Make us people of hope in a hurting world,
 people of courage in fearful times,
 and people of love wherever you send us.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ,
 with one another,
 and with all your people in every time and place,
 until that day when we feast at your heavenly banquet
 and all creation is made new.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
 all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
 now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Dr. Daniel Cummings

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Pastor Kelli

***SENDING HYMN**

Bring Forth the Kingdom TFWS 2190

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

People of God, hear the good news: The God who called you, claimed you by grace, and warmed your heart now sends you into the world to love.

May God, the giver of every good gift, deepen your faith. May Jesus Christ make your love more like his own. And may the Holy Spirit cast out fear and kindle within you a holy love for God and for every neighbor.

We go in peace to love and serve our neighbors, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit—one God, the Mother of us all. Amen.

POSTLUDE Dr. Daniel Cummings