

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Announcements and greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is in **bold**.*

Centering words:

O God, you are our strength and our salvation. You uphold and save us. We offer you our very lives.

Prelude

All Glory be to God on High

G.P. Telemann

Call to worship: Responsively

Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your healing love.

Restore us to life in which peace flourishes.

Our spirits are weighed down by our guilt and fear

Darkness surrounds us daily.

Lord, in your mercy you have forgiven and restored us.

Thank you, gracious God, for seeing the good in us and healing our lives.

*Opening hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

UMH # 327

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 327

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851

Music: DIADEMATA; George J. Elvey, 1868

Opening Prayer: In Unison

We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have healed us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love for others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: **Exodus 14:19-31**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Musical Response:

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord.

¹ When Israel went forth from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

² **Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.**

³ The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.

⁴ **The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**

⁵ What ails you, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?

⁶ **O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?**

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸ **who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.**

Musical Response

Special music

First Methodist Brass

Epistle Reading: **Romans 14:1-12**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

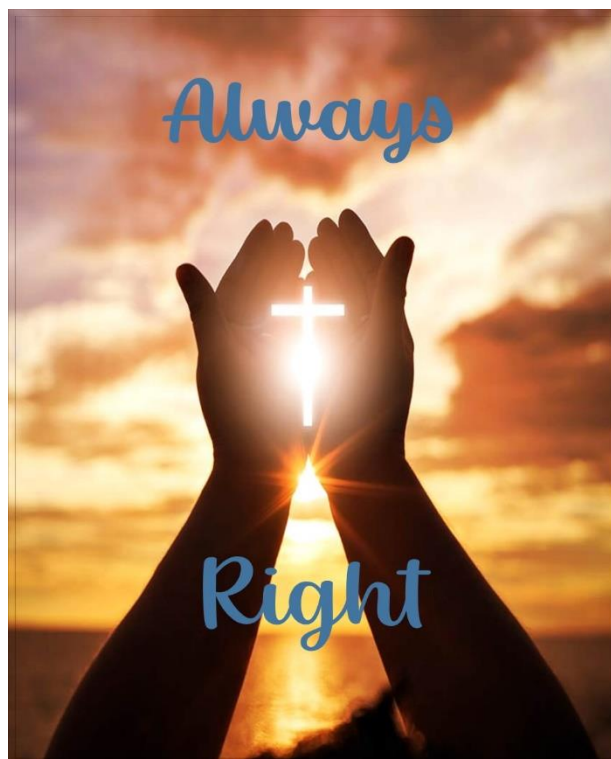
Gospel Reading: **Matthew 18:21-35**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Special music

First Methodist Brass

Message



**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.**

**There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word,
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 121
Words: Frederick William Faber, 1854
Music: WELLESLEY; Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988
Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Used by permission CCLI 673591

Call to confession

Confession prayer: In unison

Just like Peter, Lord, we want to get all "legalistic" about forgiveness. We want to know if one time to forgive someone is sufficient. We might even be willing to extend forgiveness twice, but we have a tendency to follow the adage, "Once burned, twice shy." Teach us to be humble and merciful. Remind us of the many ways in which you have offered, time and time again, your forgiving love to us. Heal our wounds and bind up our brokenness. For we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us pause for a moment for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

In the name of Jesus Christ, each one of us has received healing mercies. We are now given opportunities to offer forgiveness and redemption to one another. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with us all.

Invitation to the Offering:

In Jesus' parable, the king forgave a debt that could never be repaid. The slave responded by withholding mercy to his own debtor. How fortunate we are that our God is like the king and not the slave! As we give today, may we do so out of the lavishness we have been shown by a God who forgives and loves us beyond measure.

Please submit your offering as you feel lead by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

First Methodist Brass

Offering Prayer: In Unison

Giving God, all we are and all we have come from you. We offer back to you what has always been yours. As you have entrusted your gifts to us, we return these gifts to you, trusting that you will multiply them to the great glory of your kingdom on earth. We pray through Jesus who gave the totality of his life for us. Amen.

*Closing hymn

Go Forth for God

♯ UMH # 670

**Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
in God's good Spirit daily to increase, till in the kingdom we see face to face.**

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

**Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;
help the afflicted; richly from above God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.**

Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

**Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;
render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with his light.**

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

**Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's people every day and hour,
and serving Christ, our every gift employ, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.**

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 670

Words: John R. Peacey, 1975

Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; harm. by C. Winfred Douglass, 1940

Words by permission of Mildred E. Peacey

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Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.

Benediction: Responsively

As you go forth from this place, plunge into the waters of life unafraid, for God goes with you.

We move forward in life with purpose and passion, for Christ is our guide and guardian.

Live as people of powerful hope.

The Spirit renews us each and every day.

Go with God's blessings. Amen,

and amen!

Postlude

Praeludium Quintum

J.C.F. Fischer

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

¹UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal*

²FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (softcover hymnal)

Worship participants

Preaching: Will Jones

Liturgist: Sandy Gallagher

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Evan de Jong, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard, Bob Rice, and Cole Winslow

Ushers and Greeters: Bill Buga, Roger and Janice McFrederick, and Mike Zahnke

Every week, this service is broadcast live on the radio station WEOL 930 AM/100.3 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money from the Radio Fund. Thank you to those who donate to the fund which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The flowers are sponsored by Bill Buga in loving memory of wife Susan, in celebration of Susan's earthly birthday on September 14th.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

All Glory be to God on High by Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 - 1767). **Praeludium Quintum** by Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer (1656 - 1746). All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



First United Methodist Church
312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035
Phone: 440.322.6622
Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

September 17, 2023

Fall Bible Study

Pastor Tennille will lead a Bible study on Kenneth L. Carder's book ***Living Our Beliefs ~ The United Methodist Way***. The 6-week Zoom study **begins this Monday, September 18th, 7-8 PM**. The study guide is available in the church office for **\$13**. Contact Pastor Tennille in the church office for more information and to participate.

September Mission focus:

Hunger Action Month

This September, every action—big or small—is one step closer to an America where no one is hungry. We will collect funds all September with the culmination of **World Communion Sunday on October 1st**! Your gifts for *Feed America* will help our neighbors who are struggling with hunger. In fact, your donation will go even further and provide a simple and immediate way to help end hunger in North Central Ohio. *World Communion Sunday* supports racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals while also transforming communities.

Cash or checks made payable to: **First United Methodist Church**, (indicate **Feed America** or **WCS** on the memo line). Donate online via our website!

**Those who leave everything
in God's hand
will eventually see
God's hand in everything.**

Attention All Singers:

The Chancel Choir rehearses on **Sunday mornings at 9:45**. No experience needed, and everyone is welcome! Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM. Questions? See Jack Roberts before or after today's service or call the church office.

Community Breakfast Needs

Thank you so much for the plastic grocery bags! We should be good for a while now. However, we are still in need of **plastic cutlery**. Please keep these items and bring them to the church. Your continued support of this outreach mission truly blesses our community in need. Thank you!

Free Clothing Store

The Free Clothing Store needs hangers and YOU! Please place any kind of hangers in the bin on the main level. The store will be open to the community on the fourth Saturday of the month from **10 AM to 12 PM**. If you are available to help work in the store on **September 23rd**, please contact **the church office at 440.322.6622**.

312 Happy Hour

Join us on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon** for a great meal, fun, and fellowship!
September 26th - guest speaker Tom Ruth

Food Collection

We continue to collect for The **Salvation Army**. Please bring **any non-perishable items**. *They can also use sample size toiletries and white crew socks.*

Live Streaming

We have been live streaming our services on **YouTube** for some time now. Recently, we began live streaming on our **Facebook page**. This allows us to reach even more folks in our community!

Free Hygiene Store

Busiest month ever! We set an all-time record on Saturday, August 26th with **57 families**, **9** of which were **new**.

We need to replenish the following items:

- ✦ **Dish Soap**
- ✦ **Hand Soap**
- ✦ **Deodorant for Women and Men**
- ✦ **Body Wash and Lotion**
- ✦ **Diapers** (size 5, 6, 7)
- ✦ **Pull-ups** (size 2T, 3T, 4T)
- ✦ **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- ✦ **Adult Diapers** (pull on type in size L, XL, 2XL)
- ✦ **Tampons**
- ✦ **Adult Bladder Pads** (Poise)
- ✦ **Laundry Soap**
- ✦ **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Bless you!

The Free Store is open on the fourth Saturday of the month. In September: **Saturday, September 23rd**.

***It's not what you look at that matters,
it's what you see.***

~ Henry David Thoreau

Sponsorship

Available radio broadcast dates:

September 24; October 1, 8, and 29

The cost is \$300 full / \$150 half.

Or please contribute any amount to our Radio Fund!

Flowering dates available:

October 1, November 5 and 26

The cost is \$22.

Please call **the church office at 440.322.6622** to reserve your special date!

Tasty Treats

On **September 24th**, bring your favorite **mini sandwich!** Which tasty tiny sandwich do you enjoy? Make it and share the sweet or savory, or sweet *and* savory treat. Don't forget to bring the recipe! We will meet after worship on the 4th Sunday of each month with a different tasty treat, and then at the end of the year, a cookbook will be assembled. Everyone who participates receives a free book!

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, September 17: **Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Exodus 15:1***b***-11, 20-21; Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35**

Monday, September 18: **Psalm 77; Joshua 3:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-29**

Tuesday, September 19: **Psalm 77; Nehemiah 9:9-15; Romans 14:13-15:2**

Wednesday, September 20: **Psalm 77; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Mark 11:20-25**

Thursday, September 21: **Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 15:22-27;**

2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Friday, September 22: **Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10**

Saturday, September 23: **Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:22-30; Matthew 19:23-30**

Sunday, September 24: **Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11;**

Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16