

Faith United Methodist Church
October 4, 2020

- **Prelude** *“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”*
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
- **Welcome and Invocation** – Pastor Jeff
- **Introit** – *“Surely the Presence”* (Choir Trio) (UMH 328)
- **Opening Hymn** – *“I love Thy Kingdom, Lord”* (UMH 540)
- **Theme of the Week** – *“Words For Living”* - Bryce Jordon
- **Prayer of Confession** – Pastor Jeff
- **Special Music** – *“God and God Alone”*-McHugh (Choir Trio)
- **Scripture** – Matthew 25:1-13 – David Dexter
- **Sermon** – *“Putting God First”* – Rev. Jeffrey Ozanne
- **Prayers of the People** – Pastor Jeff
- **Communion** – Pastor Jeff
- **Lord’s Prayer** – Pastor Jeff, Beatrice, and Karolyn
- **Announcements** – Pastor Jeff
- **Song** – *“Awesome God”* (FWS 2040) 3x
- **Blessing** – Pastor Jeff
- **Postlude** – *“Blessed Assurance”*

Opening prayer

Holy Leader, we are presented once again with many choices. Today we have chosen to worship together in thanksgiving and praise. We have found the freedom and joy of being able to gather in peace; we have found the time and resources to be able to enjoy this precious opportunity; and we have followed the calling of our faith to come together in supplication, intercession, and gratitude. Be with us as we worship, and help us to choose you over and over. Help us to recommit ourselves to the blessings and challenges of our devotion to you and your love. Be made known to us, and help us to feel you near, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Abiding God, there have been times when we have chosen the gods of our contexts, over full devotion to you. We have worshipped at the altars of progress, efficiency, competition, and acquisition. We have claimed to be your people while behaving in ways that do not bear this out. We have allowed the obsessions of the “world” and the scarcity mentality of our cultures to permeate our spirits and cause us to wander. We imagine we are ready to be in your presence, but in truth are often asleep to the true preparedness of constant vigilance in your grace. Forgive our shallow ways, and wake us up to what it means to be ready to follow wholeheartedly. Jostle us into alert commitment. Teach us to embrace the responsibilities that come with helping to bring about your realm on Earth. And help us to stay awake and prepared, we pray. Amen

Words of affirmation

The great good news is that though we may sleep and fall short, God is always awake to our needs, and provides overflowingly. Though we may wander into the wildernesses of many temptations, God’s journey is one of focused and complete compassion. We are loved and forgiven. God will always embrace us, whether we are ready for such grace or not. In this, let us be assured.

Prayers of the people

Loving God, we are a people who have often taken our faith for granted. We have allowed ourselves to become distracted by the constant light show that is human life on this planet in this age. And yet, we gather desiring to be your people in truth and honesty. Although we are surrounded by the glittering masterworks of technology and entertainment, we sometimes struggle to find your light. We long for clarity of life in your love, but the temptations of our culture can consume us. Help us to be ready and to be renewed when we fall short. Fill us with your joy, humility, justice, grace, and mercy. Help us to be replenished by your forgiving love and teach us to renew others as we go. Renew your planet, we pray. Teach us to walk gently upon it, as readiness in your reign. Renew your communities, we pray. Teach us to work and live in harmony and justice, as readiness in your reign. Renew your children, we pray. Teach us to find deep purpose and satisfaction in worshipping you, as readiness in your reign. Renew your leaders, we pray. Guide them to be led by compassion and wisdom, and help us to support them in their endeavors toward the common good, as readiness in your reign. Renew your presence among us. Help us to discern your light, even in the brightness of the lights of this world, as readiness in your reign. And receive us into holy communion with you – united in the glorious fruition of love imagined, designed, and embodied. We pray in the name of the embodied one, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right,...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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you,...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit...honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord (UMH 540)

1. I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode, the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.
2. I love thy church, O God! Her walls before thee stand dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.
3. For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend, to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
4. Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways, her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
5. Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.

Awesome God (three times) (FWS 2040)

Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow'r, and love. Our God is an awesome God!