

+† Please stand as you are able. The congregation may join in by reciting **the words in bold.**

Prayer and Attendance Cards: Please help us take attendance by writing your name on the prayer card (in the buckets) that is most appropriate for you. You may also write a prayer concern and hold it for prayers of the people.

Prelude Desiree Davis-Omburo

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming the Trinity

Call to Worship—from Psalm 133 (the Message)

¹⁻³ How wonderful, how beautiful,
when brothers and sisters get along!

It's like costly anointing oil

flowing down head and beard,

Flowing down Aaron's beard,

flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.

It's like the dew on Mount Hermon

flowing down the slopes of Zion.

**Yes, that's where God commands the blessing,
ordains eternal life.**

Lord, bless our family here, tie us together with binds of love,

Bless this time of worship and help us to let go of what You are calling us to let go of, and give us what You wish to give us, to make us whole—within ourselves and with one another. Amen.

Opening Prayer—Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and let go of the things that get in the way of receiving the love and abundant life You have for us. Amen.

†**Opening Hymn** "The Church's One Foundation" **UMH 545**

Glory Moments

*If you would like to share about a time this past week when you experienced God or God's glory, please raise your hand and a mic will be brought to you. After each glory moment, Leader: And all God's people said, **People: Glory!***

Prayer for Illumination—Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Merciful Savior, your suffering has saved us, secured our future, and restored us to relationship with God. By Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes, ears, and hearts to receive your Word of love, mercy, challenge, healing, and blessing. Amen.

New Testament Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Rosemary Marlowe

Gospel Reading Matthew 15:10-20

Leader: this is the word of God for us the people of God, **thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are anguished by the fallout of our own failures. We have allowed sinful desires to take root in us, which produced external fruit that were harmful to us and others. We shrank away from welcoming strangers and providing for those who asked us for help. Yet, the faith you have planted within us reaches out for your favor, returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy.

A Moment of Silent Prayer and Confession

Words of Forgiveness

God, who came to us in human form to show us what love looks like, is merciful to those who seek mercy and to repent. Lord, receive our petitions and restore our souls to you, so that we may taste and see that You are good and the life You offer is abundant! Amen.

†**Peace of Christ**

At this time, you may greet your neighbor with signs of peace, as the young disciples are invited to come forward.

Sermon "The Pharisees Just Don't Get It" Bob Newlin

†**Song** "This is a Day of New Beginnings" **UMH 383**

Invitation to the Offering
Tithes and Offerings
The Doxology (UMH 94)
Dedicating our gifts to God

Desiree Davis-Omburo

Prayers of the People

If you have a prayer concern you would like for us to pray for in this service, you may write it on a prayer card and raise it in the air for an usher to collect.

The Lord's Prayer

†**Closing Hymn** "In Christ There is No East or West" **UMH 548**

†**Benediction**

†**Chiming the Trinity**

†**Postlude**

Desiree Davis-Omburo

Announcements:

- **Thanks** to all who came to the Strategic Planning Retreat!
- **Coffee with the Pastor** is back on for this week. If you're joining pastor Adam for the book discussion on Wednesday, August 30th on "Beating Guns" by Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin, please remember to read the book. =)
- ****This Friday, August 25th @ 5:30 PM****: We have a special Potluck, Pizza Movie Night conversation with Noel Nickle, executive director of the North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. We'll be watching the documentary, "Racist Roots" (45 min.) about the death penalty and will have discussion afterwards. Bring a dish and join us!
- I will not be in the office this week and will be working from home, as Katie's Daycare is closed all of this week for a teacher work week and home visitations. Meghan and I are working to find sitters.
- **Next Sunday, August 27th, we will have a Townhall before worship, starting @ 9:45. Sunday School is cancelled.**

Parkwood United Methodist Church August 20, 2023



"Blind Leading the Blind," by Ivanov, Sergey, 1864-1910

The Heart of Forgiveness

Sunday, August 20, 2023 • 12th Sunday after Pentecost