

† 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

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming the Trinity

Call to Worship—from Psalm 27:4-5, 7-14 (CEB)

⁴ I have asked one thing from the LORD—it's all I seek:

to live in the LORD's house all the days of my life, seeing the LORD's beauty and constantly adoring his temple.

⁵ Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling during troubling times;
he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent; he will set me up high, safe on a rock.

⁷ LORD, listen to my voice when I cry out—have mercy on me and answer me!

⁸ **Come, my heart says, seek God's face. LORD, I do seek your face!**

⁹ Please don't hide it from me! Don't push your servant aside angrily—you have been my help!

God who saves me, don't neglect me! Don't leave me all alone!

¹⁰ Even if my father and mother left me all alone,
the LORD would take me in.

¹¹ LORD, teach me your way; because of my opponents, lead me on a good path.

¹² **Don't give me over to the desires of my enemies, because false witnesses and violent accusers have taken their stand against me.**

¹³ But I have sure faith that I will experience the LORD's goodness
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Hope in the LORD! Be strong! Let your heart take courage!**
Hope in the LORD!

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have hidden your wisdom from the “higher-ups” and hidden them in children and infants, for such was your gracious will. Help us to humble

ourselves like a child and bring all of ourselves before you this day. You who said your burden was easy and your yoke is light, may we have the courage and trust to lay our burdens before you, and free us to give glory to you. Amen.

† **Opening Hymn** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” **UMH 400**

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

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Prayer of Confession

Lord, whose yoke is easy and your burden light, we bring before you the burdens on our hearts. Some of these burdens are from when we have failed you, our neighbors, and ourselves. Other burdens are a result of living in an imperfect and sinful world. We humbly ask that you would cleanse us from sin, remove our defects of character, and take away our burdens. Teach us how to lean on you and let go of what we cannot control. Amen.

A Moment of Silent Prayer and Confession

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, God has abundant mercy on those who are willing to confess their sins and repent. God has relief for those who are carrying a heavy weight. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People (to leader): In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

†*Peace of Christ*

Young Disciples Time

Pastor Adam

Sermon "Can't Please Nobody (Except God)" Rev. Rachel Randall

†*Hymn* "Trust and Obey" **UMH 467**

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

Invitation to the Offering

Tithes and Offerings

The Doxology (UMH 94)

Dedicating our gifts to God

†*Closing Hymn* "Lord of the Dance" **UMH 261**

†*Benediction* Rev. Rachel Randall

†*Chiming the Trinity*

†*Postlude*

Announcements:

- **Coffee with the Pastor** resumes this week on **Wednesday @ 9 AM—12 PM** at Starbucks (4834 Apex Hwy.). Also, Pastor Adam is starting the **Pastor's Book of the Month**, and the book of the month for July will be Henri Nouwen's *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*. I invite you to please purchase your own copy of the book, and we will meet on the **last Wednesday of the month during Coffee with the Pastor @ 11 AM** (for July, that would be Wed., July 26) for fellowship and to discuss the book.
- This **Fri., July 14**, we'll be having **Parents' Night Out @ 5:15-9 PM**: church is offering free child care for parents to eat a meal and fellowship together.
- **Pizza, Potluck, and Movie Night** will be **Fri., July 28 @ 5:30 PM!** We will be watching the film, "Jesus Revolution."

Parkwood United Methodist Church July 9, 2023



"Christ with Children," by Carl Heinrich Bloch, 1834–1890

Can't Please Nobody (Except God)

Sunday, July 9, 2023 • 6th Sunday after Pentecost