

† 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 124 (CEB)

If the Lord hadn't been for us—

let Israel now repeat!—

² **if the Lord hadn't been for us,
when those people attacked us**

³ **then they would have swallowed us up whole
with their rage burning against us!**

⁴ Then the waters would have drowned us;
the torrent would have come over our necks;

⁵ **then the raging waters would have come over our necks!**

⁶ Bless the Lord
**because he didn't hand us over
like food for our enemies' teeth!**

⁷ We escaped like a bird from the hunters' trap;
the trap was broken so we escaped!

⁸ **Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

Opening Prayer—Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Lord of second chances, may we remember this day as the day we begin, again, on our spiritual journeys with you. Our journey with You is a life-long adventure; give us what we need for the journey, and you know better than we what that is. May we love You and ourselves enough to receive the abundant life you offer. Amen.

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

Prayer for Illumination—Feasting on the Word Worship Companion
God of revelation, mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth; only your Spirit can give that gift. Be in my breath and voice, be in our ears and understanding, that through these words your Word may be known. Amen.

New Testament Reading Romans 12:1-8 Rebecca Turner
Gospel Reading Matthew 16:13-20

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

Prayer of Confession—Feasting on the Word Worship Companion
God of grace and new beginnings, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide or notice the ways we could be a blessing to someone else. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting the creation that you entrusted into our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to the world's fear of the "other," which creates enemies and oppression. We conform to this world's impatience, preferring the latest instead of what truly lasts. Forgive our conformity and transform us, starting with the renewal of our minds, then spreading from our head to our toes, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side (*Psalm 124:1*), we would be lost on the journey. But it is the Lord who is on our side, who dusts us off and helps us begin, again. And, because of Him, we are forgiven. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Receive your forgiveness, receive the healing the Christ is offering you today, and be thankful.

† **Peace of Christ**

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

Young Disciples Time

† **Song** "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" **W&S 3104**

Sermon Pastor Adam

A Time to Receive and to Let Go

Tithes and Offerings

The Doxology (UMH 94)

Dedicating our gifts to God

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*

"Take My Life and Let it Be"

UMH 399

†*Benediction*

†*Chiming the Trinity*

†*Postlude*

Desiree Davis-Omburo

Announcements:

- **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. =)
- The **Pastor's book of the month for September** is by Norman Wirzba, called "Living the Sabbath."
- Pastor Adam will be starting a **new video study on race, called "How to Fight Racism,"** by Jemar Tisbey. This will be a bag lunch study, so people are invited to bring their lunch and come to participate in this six session video series. Starting on Monday, September 18, this group will meet each Monday @ noon, except for Mondays, October 8th and 23rd.
- Please let Pastor Adam or Rev. Rachel Randall know if you are interested in marching with our church in the **Durham Pride parade** on September 23rd.
- Parkwood UMC is looking to join with other UMC churches in Durham to have a youth collective or a collective youth group between our churches. We're looking to hire a youth minister between our churches. **Our first Youth Collective Event will be at Duke Memorial on Sunday, September 24th, immediately following the Queerly Beloved Service @ 5 PM. After the service, the youth will gather to have pizza and a meet and greet.**

Parkwood United Methodist Church August 27, 2023

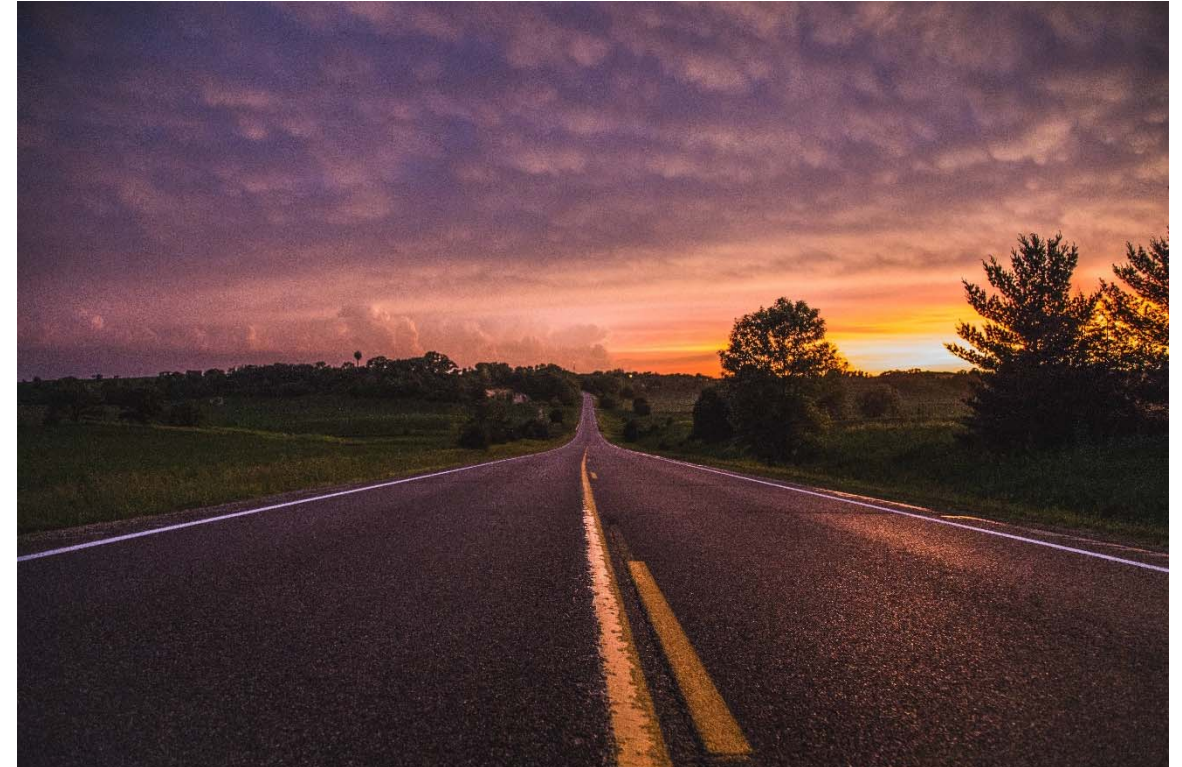


Photo by Josh Hild, from pexels.com, "Empty Road In Between Grass Field During Golden Hour"

The Journey Begins

Sunday, August 27, 2023 • 13th Sunday after Pentecost