

† 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—sections of Psalm 95:1-7 (the Message)

**ALL: Happy are those who consider the poor;
the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.**

Leader: The LORD protects them and keeps them alive;
they are called happy in the land.

People: You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

The LORD sustains them on their sickbed;
in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you.”

Please, O LORD, be gracious to me,
and raise me up, that I may repay them.

By this I know that you are pleased with me:
because my enemy has not triumphed over me.

But you have upheld me because of my integrity
and set me in your presence forever.

¹³ **Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.**

Amen and Amen.

† **Opening Song** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” **TFWS 2153**

Glory Moments

During glory moments, people are invited to raise their hand and share about a time when they received a gift from God.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, Giver of the Words of life, breathe into these ancient words anew so that they may become a living Word for us today. Free us from burdens and distractions we brought with us, so that we might hear this Word afresh. Amen.

Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:14-30

Prayer of Confession

Lord, who is the Giver of life and everything in it, we confess that we have played it safe in our discipleship. We have not risked stepping out in our care, in our love, and in building relationships with others. We have not risked stepping out to follow you. Forgive us and give us the courage to follow you where and to whom you are calling us to go. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, God has given us abundantly more than we can ask for, and God is faithful to forgive and free us, so that we can give of ourselves, our time, and our gifts to others.

Peace of Christ

Choir Anthem *Hymn of Joyful Praise by Joel Raney*

Sermon Pastor Adam

Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things

to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Tithes and Offerings

The Doxology (UMH 94)

Desiree Davis-Omburo

Dedicating our gifts to God

Prayers of the People

Pastor Adam

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 Song**

“Take My Life, and Let it Be”

UMH 399

†**Benediction**

Pastor Adam

†**Chiming the Trinity**

†**Postlude**

Desiree Davis-Omburo

Announcements:

- Please sign up to receive an **Advent Devotional** this year by Richard Rohr, “Preparing for Christmas,” or to join Pastor Adam’s **Advent study, “All the Good,”** on Thursdays, starting on **Thursday, November 30th @ noon.**
- Next **Sunday, November 26 @ 5-7 PM** is our CCoM Harvest Feast and Fellowship potluck and Communion service. **Bring something for the potluck!**
- We’ll be doing **Reverse Advent Bags** during Advent, and you are invited to bring them on (or before) Christmas Eve service @ 4 PM.
- **From the Missions Team:** the PTA of Parkwood Elementary is currently receiving \$50 grocery gift cards until December 8th to give to families who need them and whose kids go to Parkwood Elementary. If you would like to give a gift card, please write a check to “Parkwood UMC” and put “Grocery Cards for Parkwood E.” in the memo line. The church will purchase the gift cards and deliver them to Principal Fearington on December 8th.
- **Fire pit picnic on Friday, December 1 @ 4:30-6PM:** join us for at the fire pit for a picnic, hot dogs, marshmallows, and whatever folks want to bring!
- **On Sunday, December 24th,** there will be no Sunday School, our last **Advent service will be @ 9:30 AM,** and our **Christmas Eve service will be @ 4 PM.**

Parkwood UMC Worship Service

November 19, 2023



The Parable of the Talents by Poorter, Willem de (1620-1648)

What Do We Do with What God Has Given Us?

Sunday, November 19, 2023 • 25th Sunday after Pentecost