

† 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. Save your rock for Prayers of the People.

### ***Prelude***

#### ***Welcome and Announcements***

#### ***Chiming the Trinity***

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.**

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

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

<sup>9</sup> 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!**

<sup>10</sup> Even if my father and mother left me all alone,

**the LORD would take me in.**

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

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

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

**<sup>14</sup> Hope in the LORD! Be strong! Let your heart take courage!**

**Hope in the LORD!**

***Opening Prayer***—by *Will Willimon*

Lord Jesus, we gather this day to hear your words and see your deeds among us. Teach us, we pray. Tell us things that we could never tell ourselves. Give us insights we could not have on our own. Teach us. And then give us the courage to live your lessons in our daily lives to embody your wisdom and the

way we conduct ourselves in the world, to walk your narrow way that leads to life, confident that the burden of your teaching is our great blessing. Amen.

† ***Opening Hymn***                      “Be Thou My Vision”                      **UMH 451**

### ***Young Disciples Time***

*At this time, the young disciples may come forward. Afterwards, children ages 0-4 may proceed with volunteers to the nursery and come back for the final song.*

† ***Hymn***                                      “Be Still My Soul”                                      **UMH 534**

### ***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***                      Philippians 4:4-9

***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***

***Offering and Song***                                      “Ploughshare Prayer” (lyrics on insert)

† ***The Doxology*** (to the tune on UMH 95)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures high and low.  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit One. Amen.

*Dedicating our gifts to God*

*Sermon* "The Yoke of Christ" Rev. Adam Benson

†*Hymn* "I Surrender All" UMH 354

*Prayers of the People*

*If you have a burden you would like to lay down, at this time you may bring your rock forward to lay it before Christ.*

*The Lord's Prayer*

†*Closing Hymn* "Grace Like Rain" Rev. Rachel Randall

†*Benediction*

†*Chiming the Trinity*

†*Postlude*

**Announcements:**

- **TODAY @ 2-3:30 PM--CCoM Event:** Church World Service Training at All Saints UMC on how to be a Welcoming Team for a Refugee family
- **Sunday, August 25 @ 5-7 PM:** Pizza, Potluck and Movie Night "Bad Faith" (documentary on Christian Nationalism)
- **Sunday, September 1:** Sunday School classes resume  
*Children's SS class for ages 4-8 @ 10-10:15 AM*  
*Coffee and Fellowship resume in the Fellowship Hall @ 10 AM*
- **Monday, September 2 (Labor Day) @ 3-6 PM:** *The youth go to OC Aerial.*  
*Please let Pastor Adam know if you want to sign your youth up.*

**Sign up:**

- To bring freshments on a Sunday morning
- For a time to meet with the Pastor at Starbucks on Wednesday

# Parkwood United Methodist Church



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

## The Yoke of Christ

Sunday, August 18, 2023 • 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost