

† 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

Ms. Desiree Davis-Omburo

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming the Trinity

Call to Worship—*Call to Worship based on Ephesians 6:10-20 by Nancy Towney*

Leader: Though storms rage around me, I will clothe myself with the whole armor of God.

People: I will fasten the belt of truth about my waist.

I will place strength and determination as my shoes to aid me in my ministry and mission for God.

I will take up the shield of faith with which I shall defend against evil ways.

I will pray diligently at all times, offering prayers and supplication to God.

The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit will accompany my on my journey.

Be strong in the Lord who provides for your every need.

I place my confidence and trust in God always.

With confidence and in faith, let us join together in worshiping our Protector God, in and through Whom we can stand firm and find our peace.

† ***Opening Hymn***

“Spirit of the Living God”x2

UMH 393

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel Reading

John 6:47-58

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

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that we have placed more faith in putting on our masks than

the armor of God. We have chosen to live in self-deception and distraction rather than in the truth. Our footsteps have not followed your path of peace. Our sins create enmity between us, our neighbor, and You. Forgive us, Lord. Gift us with the wisdom and strength to stand firm Spirit in the fruits of the Spirit in the face of a violent world. Amen.

A Moment of Silent Prayer and Confession

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, God equips us for every trial and renews us to face the world unafraid. Rest assured in God’s presence and love for you, that will never fail or abandon you. 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

“Give Thanks”

TFWS 2036

† ***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

† ***Hymn***

“In Christ Alone”

W&S 3105

Sermon

“Standing Firm”

Rev. Adam Benson

Moment of silence for those who have served in our military and those, like Bishop Oscar Romero and Martin Luther King, Jr., who gave up their lives standing up for justice and standing firm against violence and oppression in all of its forms.

Baptismal Covenant Remembrance

UMH 50-52

After the liturgy, you are invited to come forward to remember your baptism, and be thankful.

Prayers of the People

If you have a prayer concern you would like prayed for, you may raise your prayer card at this time.

The Lord’s Prayer

† ***Closing Hymn***

“Standing on the Promises”

UMH 374

† ***Benediction***

Parkwood United Methodist Church

Announcements:

- **TONIGHT, 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 refreshments on a Sunday morning
- For a time to meet with the Pastor at Starbucks on Wednesday



“March to Selma,” image provided by
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/issues/civil-rights/selma>

Standing Firm in the “Armor” of God

Sunday, August 25, 2023 • 13th Sunday after Pentecost