

† Please stand as you are able.

**Prelude**

Ms. Desiree Davis-Omburo

**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Chiming the Trinity**

Rev. Adam Benson

**Call to Worship**—*Nancy Townley*

One: Jesus brought healing love to all people.

**Many: They talked and marveled about his miracles.**

But they really didn't understand him.

**They wanted the healing, but not necessarily a change in their lives.**

Jesus wants us to "be opened" in new ways to God, ourselves, and each other.

**Lord Jesus, open our minds, spirits and hearts to You and your life-changing words.**

**Opening Prayer**—*Will Willimon*

Lord Jesus, give us the honesty to admit our need. Make us bold to reach out for help when we are down and desperate. Instill in us a boldness to believe that your love is sufficient for our need and your grace reaches out to us in our desperation.

May we be open to your healing touch, and may we be open to others who come to us in their desperation and need, that we would not turn them away. Amen.

† **Opening Hymn**

"Tradin' My Sorrows"

W&S 3108

**Young Disciples Time**

*At this time, the young disciples may come forward, and afterwards children ages 0-4 may proceed to the nursery or return to their seats.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lord, as your scriptures are proclaimed, release us from our burdens and distractions we brought with us. May we be open in our ears, minds, and hearts to hear a Living Word from You today. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings**

Epistle Reading: James 2:1-17

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-37

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

**Prayer of Confession**—*Psalms 51:1-13 (CEB)*

**Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!**

**Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!**

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me completely clean of my guilt;  
purify me from my sin!**

**<sup>3</sup>Because I know my wrongdoings,  
my sin is always right in front of me.**

**<sup>4</sup>I've sinned against you—you alone.  
I've committed evil in your sight.**

**That's why you are justified when you render your verdict,  
completely correct when you issue your judgment.**

**<sup>5</sup>Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin,  
from the moment my mother conceived me.**

**<sup>6</sup>And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places;  
you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.<sup>[a]</sup>**

**<sup>7</sup>Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
wash me and I will be whiter than snow.**

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and celebration again;  
let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.**

**<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins;  
wipe away all my guilty deeds!**

**<sup>10</sup>Create a clean heart for me, God;  
put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!**

**<sup>11</sup>Please don't throw me out of your presence;  
please don't take your holy spirit away from me.**

**<sup>12</sup>Return the joy of your salvation to me  
and sustain me with a willing spirit.**

**<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways,  
and sinners will come back to you. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

Friends, Christ came to open us: to God, to ourselves, to each other, and to new life. Receive the forgiveness and healing that Christ offers today, and go forth to share this joy and new life with others. Amen.

† **Peace of Christ**

*You are invited to greet your neighbor offering signs of peace.*

**Offering and Song**

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

UMH 454

† **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*

“Be Opened”

Rev. Adam Benson

*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*

“Whatever You Do”

WS 3128

† *Benediction*

† *Chiming the Trinity*

† *Postlude*

**Announcements:**

**Sign up** (on sign-up table by front entrance) to help with **September Chili Dinner and CWS Workshop on Refugees and Immigrants on Sept. 22 @ 5:30-7 PM.**

We need volunteers to bring sides, desserts, set-up and clean-up. This is a community-wide event—anyone is invited to come.

**Sign up** (on sign-up table by front entrance) if you are interested in being on a **CWS Welcome Team** of 6 people (2 people from each church) in our CCoM

**Youth meet today following service @ 11:45 AM-1:15 PM:** lunch, game, UMYF, begin "Compassion" Curriculum

**Youth meet on Sunday, September 15 @ 11:45 AM-1:15 PM:** lunch, UMYF and continue "Compassion" curriculum

**September 23-29:** Pastor Adam will be away on vacation

**Sunday, September 29:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck and Hymn Sing Service



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Desiree Davis-Omburo, Director of Music

# Parkwood United Methodist Church



“The Daughter of the Canaanite Woman” by Peter Koenig, 2016

## “Be Opened”

**Sunday, September 8, 2024**