

Parkwood UMC Service of Worship
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

† Please stand as you are able.



*QR Code for Nursery
Sign-In and Out Log*
Desiree Davis-Omburo

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Adam

Chiming the Trinity

† *Call to Worship*—*Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries* Rebecca Turner

Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

† *Opening Hymn* “Come, Now is the Time to Worship” WS 3176

Young Disciples Time

At this time the young disciples may come forward, and afterward they may proceed to the nursery with volunteers.

† *Hymn* “Grace Alone” TFWS 2162

After this hymn, the children may leave with volunteers for the nursery, and then return for Holy Communion

Prayer for Illumination

Rebecca Turner

Lord our God, who still speaks to us, may these Scriptures be for us today a Living Word. Walk among us and help us to listen to whatever You wish to say to us this day. In our hearing, help us to apply Your Word to our lives. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-35

Herb Schwarze

Prayer of Confession

O God, we seek your mercy...

yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged.

We think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate and use harsh words

and withdraw from relationship.

The forgiveness you offer on our account

is larger than we can comprehend;

still, we withhold forgiveness

and carry the grudge over petty items.

We are eager to do your judging.

And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness

while avoiding honest repentance.

Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts.

Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.

Silent prayer of confession

God’s gift of forgiveness makes us able,

with the power of Holy Spirit,

to choose to forgive, renew, and live again

in right relationship with each other and with our God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

† *Peace of Christ*

The Offering and Song

“Freely, Freely”

UMH 389



**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.

Doxology

Prayer over the Offering

Sermon

Pastor Adam

Prayers of the People

Rebecca Turner and Pastor Adam

If you have a joy or a concern you would like to lift up, please raise your hand and a mic will be brought to you.

† *Closing Song*

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

TFWS 2071

† *Benediction*

† *Chiming the Trinity*

† *Postlude*

Parkwood UMC



C.P. Ellis and Ann Atwater, who were enemies that became friends while working together on a committee to desegregate Durham schools

**Three Powerful Words:
I Forgive You**