

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30AM, October 4th, 2026

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

We live in a world that entices us with influence, power, and accolades.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call.

Sometimes we find ourselves wishing for heaven without working to bring heaven to earth.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to live righteously here and now.

Other times, we find ourselves exhausted by working for the gospel, wondering if anything we do is making a difference.

We remind one another to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call, leaning on Christ as the source of our perseverance and hope.

Beloved, God calls us not to escape this world but to build the kingdom of God in this place and in this time.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to embody God's mercy and justice as we build God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

*HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" UMH # 64

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed UMH # 881

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious and loving God, You have called us out of the distractions of this world and gathered us here in Your presence. When we are tempted to seek recognition, power, and success, turn our hearts toward Christ. When we grow weary in doing Your work, renew our strength and remind us that our labor in You is never in vain. Help us to press on toward the prize of Your heavenly call, not by escaping the world around us, but by faithfully living out Your kingdom here and

now. Fill us with the mind of Christ. Shape our lives by Your grace, and empower us to embody Your love, mercy, and justice in all that we say and do. As we worship You today, open our hearts to Your Word, renew our hope, and strengthen us to follow Christ with faith and perseverance. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done in us and through us, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Responsive

Loving God, present and near. You are beyond our words and our understanding.

Help us to remember that You are at once infinite, boundless, timeless, and eternal, but, at the same time, intimately entwined with our lives.

You are with us no matter where we find ourselves.

When we have forgotten You,

Lord, have mercy.

When we have failed to speak words of love,

Lord, have mercy.

When we have neglected the need of another,

Lord, have mercy.

Loving God, present and near, help us to recognize Your presence and nearness with us as we worship together. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Even when we forget God, God does not forget us.

Even when we wander, God remains present and near. In Jesus Christ, we are met with mercy, surrounded by grace, and restored by love. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:10-14 (NRSV)

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,

11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

