Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30AM, November 8th, 2026

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Family of God, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!

We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Sometimes we grow weary in the waiting, and we wonder if we are watching and working for nothing.

We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Sometimes God surprises, and we are overwhelmed by joy and wonder at all God is doing among us.

We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Family of God, whether you are weary or energized, worried or wonder-filled, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!

We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***HYMN** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" **UMH # 140**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostles' Creed **UMH # 881**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

You do not want us to be ignorant of your dreams and hopes for us, God of holiness, so you speak to us in parables, so we might pay careful attention to your words; you tell us stories about our grandparents in the faith, so we might become mentors to our grandchildren, and theirs. Filling us with the holy oil of generosity and grace, you make us ready to welcome Jesus Christ into our lives, and to open our hearts to those who are in need. On this day, we choose to serve you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Responsive

If only we had been more aware how often we meet the Lord in life! Let us ask him to forgive us. *(pause)*

Lord Jesus, you seem absent when we struggle with suffering, but you are there with your strength: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus Christ, often we forget you in the cares of everyday life, but you are there with us: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we neglect to care for you in our sick and neglected brothers and sisters, but you want us to serve you in them: Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us all our sins, Lord, and make us look for your presence. Walk with us and lead us to the feast of everlasting life. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's grace is abundant and meets us where we are, forgiving us and inspiring us to stay awake and aware of all God is doing among us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSV)**

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out
to meet him.'
7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps.
8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you
had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were
ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.
11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'
12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'
13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

MESSAGE **"Keep Awake"** **Rev. Dongkue Jee**

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "Open My Eyes, That I May See" **UMH # 454**

THE LORD'S PRAYER **UMH # 895**

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH # 95**

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

Watchful God, you call us to keep awake—to live with open eyes and attentive hearts, ready to recognize Christ in the needs and joys that surround us each day. As we bring these gifts, keep the flame of compassion burning within us. Fill us with the oil of kindness, generosity, and holy attentiveness, that our lives may shine with your love in a world too often dimmed by fear and indifference. Use these offerings and our willing spirits to bring light, hope, and welcome to your children. Keep us awake to your presence and faithful in your service, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "It Is Well With My Soul" **UMH # 377**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.

Welcome to

Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 8th, 2026



Wise and Foolish Virgins, Tissot, James, 1886-1894, Watercolor, United States, NY, New York, Brooklyn Museum

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

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