

Wednesday Evening Worship

September 16, 2026

On the go with God

Prelude

Lighting of candles

Announcements, Joys & Concerns

Exchange of peace

Call to Worship

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless
God's holy name.

² **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**
Psalm 103:1-2

Opening Hymn *Lord of All Hopefulness* TFWS #2197 vs. 1 & 2

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

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Let us pray,
God, as we gather in worship, open our hearts to your voice.
Nourish us with your truth and prepare us to share your love in the
world. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

God’s word for God’s people.

Psalm 145:1-8

(Read responsively)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to

you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

Hymn *Lord I Want to Be a Christian* UMH #402 vs. 1, 2, 4

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. (in my heart)
In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart)
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. (in my heart)
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. (in my heart)
In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart)
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. (in my heart)
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (in my heart)
In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart)
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (in my heart)

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Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Because we often fall short and are not willing to love as Jesus loves, let us confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

Holy God, even though we choose to follow Jesus we often go our own way. Jesus sends us out to care for others, but we put ourselves first at the expense of others. Forgive us for neglecting our neighbors and our community; for the good left undone and the wrong done. Help us to be faithful disciples on the Way.

In Christ, we are forgiven, justified, and transformed to carry on in the way of love and justice. Savor the good news of this pardon – your sins are forgiven +in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* UMH #526 v. 1

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

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Pastoral Prayer

Offering *Lord, Be Glorified* TFWS #2150 vs. 1& 4

1. In our lives, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord,
be glorified today.

4. In your world, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord,
be glorified today.

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Gracious God, we return to you a portion of what you have first given us. May all that we offer be used to feed the hungry, welcome our neighbors, and spread your love and justice everywhere we go. Bless both the giver and the gift that they may bear fruit for your kingdom. Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to the table.

The table is set for you. If you are hungry, tired, weary, or worn, or joyful or full, or care free, there is space for you here. Come, the bread of life and the cup of blessing await you. The body and blood of Christ given for you. Amen.

Holy Communion

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks for feeding us at your table, Lord. May we become what we have received, the body of Christ, for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Lord of All Hopefulness TFWS #2197 vs. 3 & 4

3. Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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Benediction

Go and do no harm. Do good. and, as you go, +may the love of
God enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of
the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forever. **Amen.**

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