

Wednesday Evening Worship

September 2, 2026

On the go with God

Prelude

Announcements

Call to Worship

O God of the morning and of the evening hours,

Let your Spirit come on us here gathered.

This is the holy place where we your people call on you in faith,

Joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your name.

(Book of Worship, United Church of Christ)

Opening Hymn *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning* TFWS #2237

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

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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.**

Romans 13:8-12a

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. God’s word for God’s people.

Psalms 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the

church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

Hymn *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* TFWS #2153

1. I'm gonna live so (*live so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (*anytime!*)

I'm gonna live so (*live so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, (my Lord,) anytime! (anytime!)

2. I'm gonna work so (*work so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna work so (*work so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, (my Lord,) anytime! (anytime!)

3. I'm gonna pray so (*pray so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna pray so (*pray so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, (my Lord,) anytime! (anytime!)

4. I'm gonna sing so (*sing so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna sing so (*sing so*)

God can use me anywhere, Lord, (my Lord,) anytime! (anytime!)

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 verse 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 *Sent Out in Jesus' Name* (2x) TFWS #2184

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O help us to obey and carry out your will.

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Blessing of Backpacks

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.**