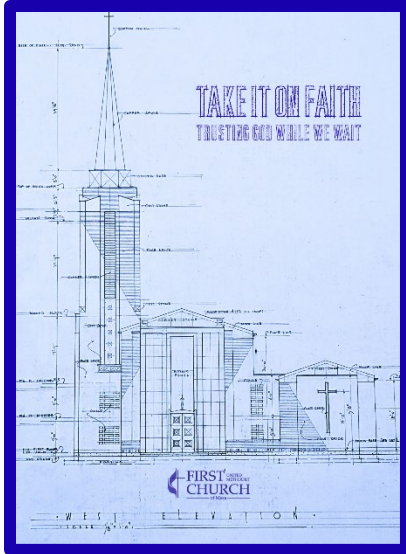




TAKE IT ON FAITH - TRUSTING GOD WHILE WE WAIT

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 NINE A.M.

We kindly ask that you silence your cellphones and electronic devices as we create a sacred space for contemplation and prayer.

† - Please rise in body or in spirit.

Chiming the Hour / Welcome & Announcements

GOD GATHERS THE SCATTERED

Prelude

"Finale" from Sonata VI

Felix Mendelssohn

† Call to Worship

God has called us like Moses in the wilderness,
the prophets in the hills, and the disciples in the cities.

They shared their blessings

so that we might know God's presence here.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely.

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

† Hymn

God Whose Love Is Reigning O'er Us

RED 100

1. God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus
raised in joyful praise to you:
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship
new.

3. Holy God of ancient glory,
choosing man and woman, too;
Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story
formed a people bound to you.
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us
true.

2. Word of God from nature bringing
springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing,
ocean waves like thunder bold:
Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.

4. Covenant, new again in Jesus,
Star-child born to set us free;
sent to heal us, sent to teach us
how love's children we might be.
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he!

5. Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices
lives that, like our music, sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

† Opening Prayer

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
We come convinced of many things but trusting very few.
Holy God of limitless surprises,
meet us here in this place
as we touch that which we cannot see,
that which we have not dared to hope. Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS THE WORD TO US

A Reading from the Epistles

Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

One: Word of God, Word of Life! Many: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

A Festive Call to Praise

Joseph Martin

Sermon

Faith As a Vision

Dr. Parkes

GOD INSPIRES US TO RESPOND

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

RED 12

Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

RED 452

1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!

2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

Reception of New Members

† The Peace

One: The Peace of the Lord Jesus be always with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

The Offering

Offertory

Praise to the Lord

arr. Darwin Welford

† Doxology

RED 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOD HOSTS US AT THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit & recalls the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding:

...we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor prays for the Church and praises the Trinity, concluding:

...All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

RED 895

Breaking the Bread / Giving the Bread and Cup

During Communion:

Take My Life and Let It Be

RED 399

Let Us Break Bread Together

RED 618

Two communion stations await you near the chancel. If walking forward is a hardship, raise your hand until an usher can serve you at your seat. If you need a gluten-free option, please ask the server at your station.

Prayer Following Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD SENDS US TO THE WORLD

† Hymn

Blessed Assurance

RED 369

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
(Refrain)

† Dismissal with Blessing

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Toccata in D Minor (BuxWV 155)

by D. Buxtehude

It is the habit of some to remain seated through the postlude to savor a few last moments of prayer before returning to the world. Others must leave to gather children or help with other activities. We only ask that you do so quietly until you reach the Narthex. We are grateful you chose to be part of our family today!