



"Sharing Christ: Love, Hope, Joy"

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 1, 2024—15th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

GETTING ENGAGED

Pastor Tracey Leslie

GREETING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

MOMENT OF QUIET MEDITATION

THE PRELUDE

Charissa Garrigus

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather to worship our God who is all-knowing, yet beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

People: We gather with questions: Who are we? What is our purpose? Who would God have us become?

Leader: We gather to encounter a God of questions; questions that evoke curiosity and lead to growth.

People: We gather, ready to wrestle with hard questions that deepen our love and trust in God.

***OPENING HYMN**

“The Summons”

FWS #2130

***OPENING PRAYER, in unison**

Darren Cushman Wood, *North Book of Worship*

God, whom we know through the scriptures and creation, speak to us in this hour. Show us the wisdom and joy of your ways that we may know what is good and do what is right, through Jesus Christ your Word. Amen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

The Questions of Jesus (Sourcebooks of Worship Resources, vol. 3)

We believe in the Lord who questions, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” and then stills the storms of our lives and gives us peace. We believe in the Jesus who tenderly asks, “Who touched me?” and then heals us of our disease. We believe in the Master who says, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” and then reaches out his hand to catch us when we are sinking. We believe in the Christ who wonders what it profits us to gain the whole world, but lose ourselves. We believe him when he says, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” And when he queries, “Who do you say that I am?” we are glad to confess, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

THE GIVING OF GIFTS TO GOD'S MISSION

The Offertory
The Doxology
The Prayer of Dedication

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

PSALM 139

UMH pp. 854-855, vv. 1-6, 13-18

MUSICAL RESPONSE

THE SERMON

"Holy Seeking"

Pastor Tracey Leslie

Gospel Reading

John 1:35-51 (embedded in the sermon)

Leader: For the word of God in scripture,

People: For the word of God among us,

Leader: For the word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON for Labor Day (Darren Cushman Wood,
North Book of Worship)

Leader: Let us prepare for the Gospel feast this Labor Day weekend by
confessing the sins we have committed against God and neighbor:

**People: Fierce and tender God, whose work is justice and whose delight
is mercy: forgive us for ignoring the cries of workers who labor
under the tyranny of prejudice and poverty. Free us from the
system of greed that comforts our bodies and placates our souls.
Free us for a life of joyful resistance to evil, injustice and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves; through Jesus Christ
our only Lord. Amen.**

Time for Silent Prayer

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

