

# Carry the cross and follow me.

## MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

(\* Indicates when people are invited to stand)

**PRELUDE:**

*“Amazing Grace”*

*Trad. American Melody*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Did you hear the whisper of God calling us to worship?

**God, help us listen as you call.**

Do you sense the beautiful people God is creating us to become?

**God, help us to see your image within.**

Are we ready to listen, learn, and grow?

**God, open our hearts and minds to your loving and challenging guidance.**

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, you have crafted us in your image and created us for greatness, as we share your love, justice, and compassion. Help us to live into this creation. Strengthen us, as we seek to answer your call. When we go astray, guide us back to your ways. When we fall apart, put us back together again. When we shrink in fear, lift our heads, that we may see your love and grace welcoming us home.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN: 139**

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

*vs 1-4*

#### **PRAYER OF YEARNING**

**O God, you know us when we are at our very best and when we are at our very worst. So, here we are, ready to worship. We are a confusing mixture of our best and worst parts. Thank you for inviting us here. Thank you for always welcoming us home. We welcome you, Holy Spirit. Breathe in our lives, as we worship you this day. Be with us, now and always. Amen.**

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE ~ 2 Corinthians 5**

Marvelously set apart, we are created in God's own image. Marvelously saved by grace, we are re-created in Christ's love. Marvelously sustained in faith, we are new creations in the Spirit. Thanks be to God!

## **\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

### **OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

### **SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: 139:1-6, 13-18 (NIV)**

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

**You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

**Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.**

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

For you created my inmost being;

**you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

**your works are wonderful,**

I know that full well.

**My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes saw my unformed body;

**all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

**Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake,  
I am still with you.**

### **EPISTLE: Philemon 1-21 (NIV)**

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

## **SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

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**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33 (NIV)**

The gospel according to Luke.

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTIONS ON GOD'S WORD

Pastor Rob Odum

**HYMN: 77**

*"How Great Thou Art"*

*vs 1-4*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you have blessed us beyond measure; you have entrusted us as partners to care for your world. Bless these gifts and our very lives. Transform everything we are in this life into offerings that bring your love to the world.

**Amen.**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:**

*"Spirit of God"*

*By Steve Garness-Holmes*

**\*DOXOLOGY: 94**

*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Amen**

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION

## 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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, 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.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SERVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Eternal God, as we have shared together of your body and your blood, remind us that we are called to share of ourselves with all who we might encounter. Help us to welcome the stranger, the outcast, the unloved and the forgotten. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: 600**

*"Wonderful Words of Life"*

*vs 1-3*

### **\*BENEDICTION**

May the Spirit's power give us courage. May Christ's love give us compassion. And may God's image shine through us, as we carry a cross of light and love for all to see. **Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE:**

*"Take My Life and Let it Be"*

*Arr by Vicki Tucker Courtney*

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**SCIENCE CAFÉ**

**Tuesday ~ September 9th at Memorial UMC**

Dinner at 5:30 PM ~ Program from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

**An Overview of Shingles:  
Symptoms, Causes, and Treatment**

You are invited to a presentation by an expert in infectious diseases followed by a conversation with community members. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM.

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Happy birthday to Virginia Braley 9/16-Our apologies Virginia (missed in the Newsletter and added to database)



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**General Information & Staff**

3450 South 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Greenfield, WI 53219

**Church Phone:** 414-545-2440

**Church Email:** [mumcgreenfield@gmail.com](mailto:mumcgreenfield@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Rob Odum, 414-238-8367

**Pastor's Email:** [robdodum@gmail.com](mailto:robdodum@gmail.com)

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