

Astoria First United Methodist Church
August 22, 2021

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP
*(*please stand if you are able)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Kristin Hammond

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Be Thou My Vision”

Kristin Hammond

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

(If you are able, please stand)

Gloria Jones

L: Welcome to this holy space where God’s Spirit dwells among us!

P: **We come longing to feel the presence of God.**

L: Open your hearts, for this is a place of prayer and healing.

P: **This is a place of joy and faith.**

L: This is the place for you and for all who enter our doors.

P: **Thanks be to God who is forever the source of life and love!**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

OT SCRIPTURE READING

Gloria Jones

“1 Kings 8: (1,6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43”

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 84”

Gloria Jones

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read by the liturgist)

Gloria Jones

God of the promise, you have declared yourself to be our heavenly parent through Jesus Christ. Forgive our denial of your promised care through anxiety and our hesitancy to identify ourselves with you despite your past provision for our needs. We are sorry for the disloyalty we have shown you from time to time through our rejection of the church. Absolve us for the sake of your ever loyal Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read by the Pastor)

Pastor Michael

Friends, hear the good news! Christ loved the church and gave himself for it, to consecrate it, cleansing it by water and word so that he might present the church to himself all glorious, with no stain or wrinkle or anything of the sort, but holy and without blemish. Friends, believe the good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

NT EPISTLE READING

“Ephesians 6:10-20”

Gloria Jones

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the

breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD **Pastor Michael**
God has blessed us with an abundance of gifts. We are called to offer all that we are to God—our bodies, our spirits, our minds, our time, and our money. As the body of Christ, we are called to be in ministry with others. With true generosity, let us give of ourselves this morning.

***DOXOLOGY** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* **Congregation**
UMH#95

OFFERTORY PRAYER **Pastor Michael**

HYMN OF PREPARATION **Congregation**
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” **UMH#140**
We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays.

***GOSPEL LESSON** *“John 6:56-69”* **Pastor Michael**

SERMON *“All Things are Possible with God”* **Pastor Michael**

JOYS AND CONCERNS **Mary Frances**

PASTORAL PRAYER **Pastor Michael**

LORD’S PRAYER **Pastor Michael**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom (kin-dom) 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, (kin-dom), the power, and the glory, forever.

AMEN

BENEDICTION **Pastor Michael**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.



September 12, 2021 WORSHIP IN THE PARK:

Place – Cullaby Lake south pavilion

Time – 11:30 am

This will be a time of worship only because of COVID-19 restrictions.

- *Masks and social distancing will be required* -

We can start gathering at 10:00 for setup, etc.

We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.

Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.