

Astoria First United Methodist Church
September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Kristin Hammond

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Etude” by H. Lemoine

Kristin Hammond

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

(If you are able, please stand)

Sue Hicks

L: We can trust God.

P: God is like the mountain: rock solid.

L: God loves all the people:

P: the poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.

L: We can depend on God.

P: God feeds the hungry, heals the sick, and restores relationships.

L: Praise our Loving God.

All: Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

OT SCRIPTURE READING *“Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23”*

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail. Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, for the Lord will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Surrender All”

Kristin Hammond

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 125”

Sue Hicks

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the

righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts! But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(read by the liturgist)*

Sue Hicks

God of us all, your grace and mercy fill our lives every day. We give you our thanks and praise. Too often, we forget or ignore your presence in our lives. Too often, we treat your children unequally, deeming some more important than others. Too often, we forget that our daily actions need to reflect our faith. Forgive us and lead us to embrace abundant life for all of your children. In the name of Christ, we pray. **AMEN**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *(read by the Pastor)*

Pastor Michael

Brothers and Sisters, Christ, the great Healer, brings healing and wholeness to our lives. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. **AMEN**

NT EPISTLE READING *“James 2:1-10, 14-17”*

Sue Hicks

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Michael

The Lord is Creator of all and the Giver of every good gift. Let us offer to God a portion of these gifts, that all needs may be met, and that all people may come to know the grace and joy of God.

***DOXOLOGY**

**Congregation
UMH#95**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor Michael

HYMN OF PREPARATION

(vs. 1-3)

“He Touched Me”

**Congregation
UMH#367**

We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays.

***GOSPEL LESSON**

“Mark 7:24-37”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Desperate Times and Desperate Measures”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Michael

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

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

(Please remember the communion elements of the bread and juice will be provide in a sealed container to be received individually.)

***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.