

Astoria First United Methodist Church
September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHERING MUSIC Mary Frances Gunn

ANNOUNCEMENTS Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC *“Morning has Broken”* Mary Frances Gunn

WORDS OF WELCOME Pastor Michael

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(If you are able, please stand)* Pam Johnson

L: Wisdom cries out in the streets.

P: We hear and struggle to understand.

L: Come and listen to the words of life and love.

**P: We hear and proclaim our faith
in the one who brings life.**

L: Let us worship the God of life and wisdom
whose words guide our life on the right paths.

***OPENING PRAYER** Pastor Michael

OT SCRIPTURE READING *“Proverbs 1:20-33”* Pam Johnson

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of

their way, and have their fill of their own devices. For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Gift of Love”

**Mary Frances Gunn
UMH#408**

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 19”

Pam Johnson

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple, the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read by the liturgist)

Pam Johnson

Wisdom cries in the streets, but we do not listen or understand. The words of your law are spoken, but we rarely pay heed or obey. You call us to declare who Jesus is for us, but we can't seem to get the right words out. Our tongues engage before our brains do. We want so much to be a people who are faithful to your word and led by your guidance, but we are so easily distracted by the cacophony of words and sounds. Forgive us when we are quick to speak and slow to understand. Forgive us when we do not hear your wisdom in all the ways you speak to us. Forgive us when we do not even try to truly understand what it means to be your disciples. Lead us back to the path of wisdom and life, that we may truly live. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read by the Pastor)

Pastor Michael

Those who listen to the words of wisdom will be secure and live-in ease. Know that our God never ceases to reach out in love and forgiveness, guiding us on the paths of righteousness and

life, calling us to claim our true identity as disciples, as your beloved children in whom you are well-pleased and delighted and upon whom the favor of God rests. In the Name of Christ our Lord, you are forgiven! We are all forgiven always!

NT EPISTLE READING

“James 3:1-12”

Pam Johnson

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Michael

This is a day to live, not for ourselves, but for others. Christ has given himself for us, and God has called us to pattern our lives in such self-giving ways. May we who remember the sufferings of the past be called forward toward the joy that God has designed for our world – where all are loved, all are fed, all will have enough. Let us give ourselves by giving of the resources that God has entrusted to us, as guardians and witnesses of God's abundance, favor, mercy, and of course, love.

***DOXOLOGY**

**Congregation
UMH#95**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor Michael

HYMN OF PREPARATION

(verses 1-4)

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

**Congregation
UMH#577**

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

GOSPEL LESSON

“Mark 8:27-38”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Bearing a Cross and Wearing a Cross”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances Gunn

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.



TODAY! 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.