

Astoria First United Methodist Church
September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHERING MUSIC **Kristin Hammond**

ANNOUNCEMENTS **Mary Frances Gunn**

CENTERING MUSIC *“Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling”* **Kristin Hammond**

WORDS OF WELCOME **Pastor Michael**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(If you are able, please stand)* **Lorel Bresko**

Who is wise and understanding among us? Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day. Those who delight in God and meditate on God’s law. Come, learn more about the wisdom from above, a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness. O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels! We draw near to you.

***OPENING PRAYER** **Pastor Michael**

OT SCRIPTURE READING *“Proverbs 31:10-31”* **Lorel Bresko**

An excellent wife who can find. She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them she delivers sashes to the merchant.

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Chopin Prelude, op. 28 No. 15 “Raindrop”* **Kristin Hammond**

PSALTER READING *“Psalm 1”* **Lorel Bresko**

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION **Pastor Michael**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(read by the liturgist)* **Lorel Bresko**

O God, we live our lives as best we can— dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for your insight. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. AMEN

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *(read by the Pastor)* **Pastor Michael**

With the nourishment of Christ the Living Water, we are refreshed and made new. In God’s mercy and grace, we are again claimed as God’s children and called into God’s service. When we come before God in humility and honesty, God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing. In the Name Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom we draw near, you are forgiven. We are all forgiven, always!

NT EPISTLE READING *“James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a”* **Lorel Bresko**

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be

disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.* Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD **Pastor Michael**

In the book of Proverbs we learn that God’s Wisdom is present and active in our lives in this way: “She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.” Jesus lived this wisdom in his life and called his disciples to this same generosity. Let us give out of this same generous wisdom—a wisdom that seeks a presence and purpose in our lives on behalf of all.

***DOXOLOGY** **Congregation
UMH#95**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** **Pastor Michael**

HYMN OF PREPARATION *(verses 1-4)* **Congregation
UMH#128**
“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

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

GOSPEL LESSON **“Mark 9:30-37”** **Pastor Michael**

SERMON **“Our Journey from Parable to Purpose”** **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.**

**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.**