

Astoria First United Methodist Church

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances

CENTERING MUSIC

Kristin Hammond

WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Todd

The God of our ancestors has led us to this place. We are witnesses. We have sworn to teach God's promises to all generations. We are witnesses. The time is coming when Christ will come again in glory. We are witnesses. Let us tell the world of God's faithful love. We will worship and witness together!

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Janet Todd

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Prelude on Beach Street"
by Jeff Bennett*

Kristin Hammond

UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Janet Todd

God of Mystery, we want to stay awake and be ready for your surprises, but we are tired and overcome with the usual routine. We want to wait patiently for the fulfillment of your kingdom, but we are frustrated by our need for immediate gratification. We want to believe your promises from ancient days, but we are overwhelmed with postmodern doubts. Come to us again, O God. Awaken us with your unexpected grace. Shock us with your daring mercy. Lift us up from apathy and indifference. Set our feet again, Lord, on your path of life.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Janet Todd

May we encourage one another and hold onto these words of hope: "We will be with the Lord forever." God's promises are never forgotten. Our hope is in God. Love the Lord of life who fills us with life, love, and hope. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Open your heart to receive God's mercy and love! **AMEN**

GOSPEL LESSON

“Matthew 25:1-13”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Always Ready”

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 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **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.](#)
