

VETERANS SUNDAY TWENTY-THIRD PENTECOST SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2020

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Preparing for Worship – Creating and Liberating God, you have graced us with freedom to choose whom we will serve, and you have promised to return and gather the faithful to yourself. Know that in this hour, we choose you anew for our God. Grant us courage and strength of faith to hold fast to your covenant in the time that remains to us, until you come again.

Prelude **“America the Beautiful”**
 Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

Welcome and Announcements **The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter**

Celebration of our Veterans

***Opening** **“Christ Is Risen”** **WT**
 Matthew Smith, Music Director

***Call to Worship**

Come, O People, and declare the mighty deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has saved us! Let us tell it to our children.

Come, O People, and choose this day whom you will serve.

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!”

Come, O People, and teach the young what God has done once and for all.

Christ has died for us! Christ is Risen!

Christ will come again to meet us and to gather us home.

***Invocation Prayer**

Song of Faith #426 **“Blessed Assurance”**

The Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer – 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

A Reading from the Old Testament **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

A Reading from the Apostles **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

***A Reading from the Holy Gospel** **Matthew 25:1-13**

Response **“My Hope Is in You”** **WT**

Children’s Message **(Children dismissed to Junior Church)**

Offering & Prayer of Dedication – From our first fruits we dedicate to you this portion of the blessings you have granted us. May they bear witness to our faith in you, as they also testify to the gracious goodness that has come to us in the person of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offertory **“God Bless America”** **Jan Mauck, Church Pianist**

The Message **“Faithful, HOPEFUL, and Loving”**
 The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

***Invitation to Faith and Fellowship** – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Song #496** **“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude

Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

*Please stand if able

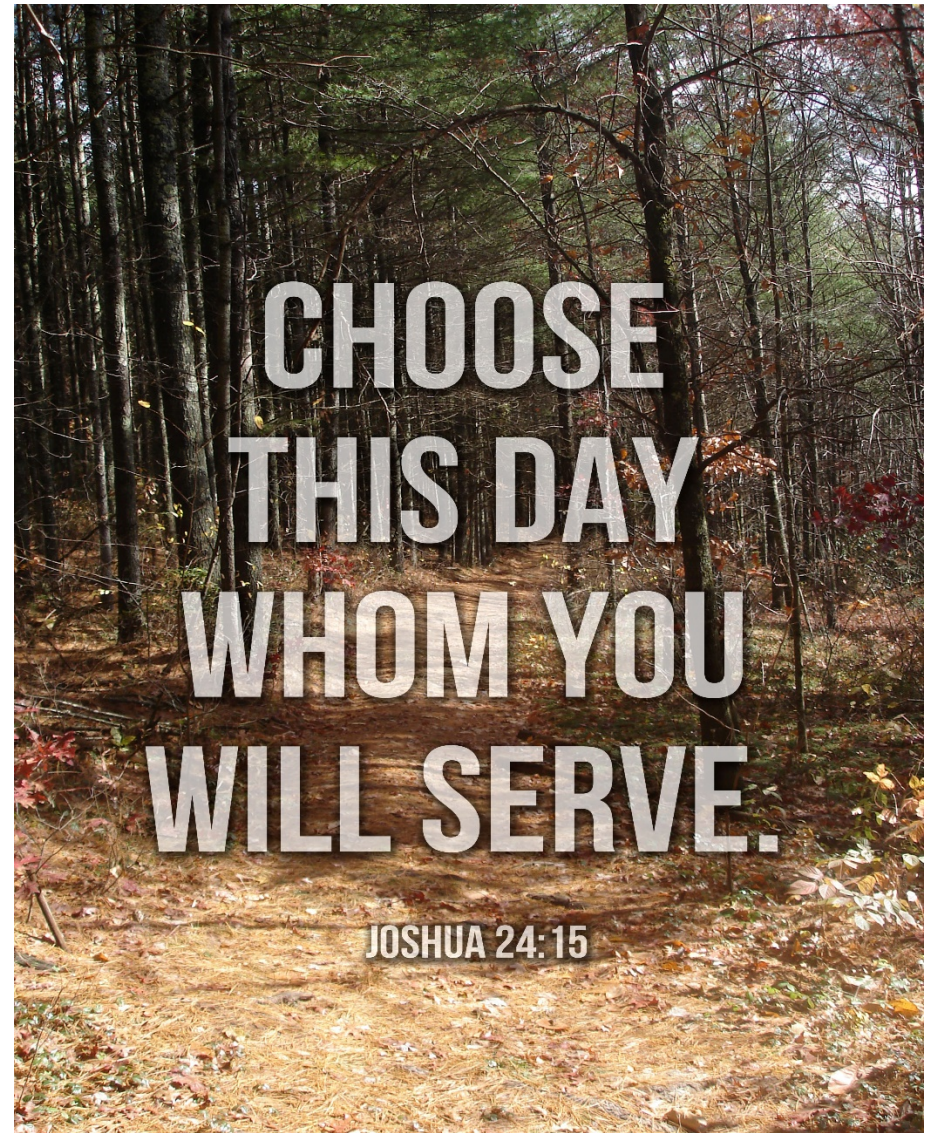
BELIEVER'S BAPTISM – We practice “believer’s baptism,” which is the immersion of a person in water – regardless of age – who receives Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and publicly professes faith to walk the Jesus way. The Council schedules baptisms on most Sunday mornings throughout the year. If you would like to be baptized, then come to the front during the last song.

THE LORD’S SUPPER – We celebrate the Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion) on the first Sunday of each month and special occasions. All persons of faith, regardless of age, race, or church affiliation, are welcome to partake of the Table of the Lord. In solidarity with others, we use only non-alcoholic grape juice. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Call Pastor Ivan to deliver communion for the homebound.



American Baptist Church USA – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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