

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 27 September 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Praise Choruses: 3096 "Gentle Shepherd"
3093 "Fill My Cup, Lord"

Announcements:

Greeting: Listen to the teaching of the Lord.
Let us turn our ears to God's words.
Let us remember the Lord's glorious deeds
And rejoice in the wonders of God. (Psalm 78)

*Opening Prayer^:
O God, we realize you do not call us to be successful
in the marketplace;
you call us to be faithful as disciples of Jesus.
You do not call us to achievement in work,
but to responsible living.
You do not call us to make a great fortune,
but to labor for your reign.
Guide us into greater understanding of your priorities.
Amen. (Anton K. Jacobs, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)

*Opening Hymn: 364 "Because He Lives"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 600 (Verse 1 only)
"Wonderful Words of Life"

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalter: (Insert, alternate leader and people) Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Second Lesson: Philippians 2: 1-13

Hymn of Preparation: 558 "We Are the Church"

(2)

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 889 "Affirmation from 1 Timothy 2:5-6;
1:15; 3:16"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Children's Time

*The Peace: Let us offer one another
signs of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

*Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.
Offering/Offertory

*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving ^:
Eternal God, your mercies have come to us from of old
and remain with us this day.
You provide for every need, satisfying our thirst
and leading us in safety.
Hear our songs of praise.
Yet, even as we enjoy the bounty that is given,
we complain that we do not have enough,
For our failings and acts of rebellion
forgive us, merciful Lord.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit
that we might be of the one mind
we have in Christ Jesus.
We offer ourselves and our gifts to you
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(3)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 527 "Do, Lord, Remember Me"

*Blessing: 665 "Go Now in Peace"

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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