BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30 a.m. Sunday 8 November 2026
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign the attendance card in your pew, & place in offering plate)*

*Greeting** *(Matthew 25)*:
Wait for the Lord.
God is as near to us as our very breath.
Wait for God's wisdom.
Wisdom is planted in our very souls.
Prepare for the coming of Christ.
Christ lives in our very lives.
Wait, prepare, be ready to celebrate.
God is here, Christ has come.
Love is present here and now.

* Praise choruses: 2272 "Holy Ground"
2149 "Living for Jesus"

Opening Prayer** *(Matthew 25)*:
Christ, who is our Love and Life,
wait with us now.
Prepare us to receive your presence.
Strengthen us to wait with perseverance
and patience
for the celebration of your place in our lives
and your presence in our world. Amen.
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*Opening Hymn: 193 "Jesus! the Name High over All

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: *(Tune: 193)*
Talk with us, Lord, thy self reveal,
while here on earth we rove;
Speak to our hearts, and let us feel
the kindling of thy love. *(Charles Wesley)*

First Lesson: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalter: *(Insert: Alternate* leader *and* **people***)* Psalm 78:1-7

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*Hymn of Preparation: 382 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

*Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 880 "THE APOSTLES' CREED, TRADITIONAL VERSION"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

The Peace** *(Matthew 25)*:
Wise or foolish, ready or not, all are welcome here.
Turn to your neighbors, sharing the oil of love
and the balm of grace,
as we pass the peace of Christ this day.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Children's Time

THANKSGIVING

Invitation** *(Matthew 25)*:
Whether wise or foolish, people need oil for their lamps.
People need food for their table and love for their lives.
Come, let us share the oil of our lives,
that all may have light for their way.

Offering/Offertory

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving *(Matthew 25)* :

(3)

Loving God, receive these gifts of love
as celebrations of your presence in our lives.
Shine through our gifts and our ministry,
that others may see light for their journey. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 399 "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

*Benediction** *Matthew 25)* :

Keep awake! For darkness is all around!
May our hearts shine with God's love.
Keep awake! For the world is in constant need!
May we see and respond
where Christ calls us to serve.
As light for the world, go forth for God.
We go now to light the way! Amen.

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/ Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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