

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 6, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

Welcome

*Passing the Peace

*Prelude *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* by Jacques Berthier
Summer Choir; Keren Gibson, flute

*Call to Worship

One: From shore to shore -

All: Let God's praise be sung.

One: From mountains high to valleys low --

All: Let the echo of praise resound.

One: From the mouths of children and the prayers of the saints --

All: Let thanksgiving abound.

One: For great is our God

All: And greatly to be praised.

*Opening Hymn #698

God of the Ages

Centering Prayer

Creator and Ruler of humankind: While songs of our nation's birth ring in our hearts, remind us to celebrate above all the oneness of the race you have created and the openness of the church you have loved. And help us, who are your church in this place, to be truly open to all your children and to pray for the coming of the day when all shall be one in him who has broken down all the walls that now divide us, even Jesus Christ, the Lord of both church and world. Amen.

Special Music

Thy Word arr. Schrader
Summer Choir

Ministry of the Word Matthew 11:25-30 (The Message)

Leader: "The Word of God for the People of God."

People: "Thanks be to God."

Sermon

"A-Maze-ing Grace" Rev. Bates
Text: Romans 7:15-25 (The Message)

Invitation

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Oh God, when we take the time to truly examine our hearts, we find that we can relate to Paul in so many ways. We don't do the things we want to do, and the things we don't want to do are exactly the things we do. We can feel trapped by temptation and sin. Yet, the truth is that we belong to you. You have defeated sin. You have given us power over these struggles if we will only run to you. Forgive us for trying to fight temptation on our own, for we fail every time. Help us to set our minds on you and to come to you whenever our desires try to persuade us away from living like your son. Thank you for your unending grace and mercy.

(continue to pray in silence)

Offering & Offertory He Shall Feed His Flock from *Messiah*
by G. F. Handel

*Doxology (#94)

The Great Thanksgiving (UMH pg. 17)

The Lord's Prayer (Kriewald)

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Prayer after Receiving

We are grateful for the gracious invitation to your table. No other meal sates our hunger, quenches our thirst and fills our hearts the way your banquet does. Fill us with your Spirit and empower us to share the good news of the gospel through our words and actions so those who don't know you will learn that you are the bread of life and the living water. We look forward to the day your kingdom is fulfilled so no one suffers from hunger or thirst. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #378

Amazing Grace

*Benediction

*Postlude

America the Beautiful by S. A. Ward

**Please Stand As You Are Able*