

## The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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# Guarding Our Hearts

October 5, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Sharon Wilson

### Welcome

### Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Gene Clarke

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

**People:** **We come, bringing our hearts before God.**

**Leader:** God alone is worthy of our love and devotion.

**People:** **With faithful hearts, we worship the Lord who leads us in the way that leads to life.**

## Hymn

## In Christ There Is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in  
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their  
 3. In Christ is neith - er Jew nor Greek, and  
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in

him no south or north; but one great fel - low -  
 high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the  
 neith - er slave nor free; both male and fe - male  
 him meet south and north; all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 heirs are made, and all are kin to me.  
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

## Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we come before you this morning with open hearts. Your Word reminds us to guard our hearts. From them, the springs of life flow. Keep our thoughts pure, our steps steady, and our eyes fixed on You. As we worship, direct our paths in wisdom, fill us with your Spirit, and draw us closer to you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

**Chorus**

Lord, Be Glorified

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified,  
In my life, Lord be glorified today.

In Your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified,  
In Your church, Lord, be glorified today.

**Senior Choir**

He Is the Everlasting God

Joseph M. Martin

**Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev**

**Scripture Lesson**

Proverbs 4:23-27

Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life.  
Put away from you crooked speech,  
and put devious talk far from you.  
Let your eyes look directly forward  
and your gaze be straight before you.  
Keep straight the path of your feet,  
and all your ways will be sure.  
Do not swerve to the right or to the left;  
turn your foot away from evil.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Message**

*Guarding Our Hearts*

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**

Gavotte

Samuel S. Wesley

**Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**A Service of Word and Table**

*Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 5](#) of this document.*

*Communion Anthem*

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

*arr. Wilson and Ehret*

## Hymn

## Christ for the World We Sing

(verses 1 and 4)

1. Christ for the world we sing, the world to  
 2. Christ for the world we sing, the world to  
 3. Christ for the world we sing, the world to  
 4. Christ for the world we sing, the world to

Christ we bring, with lov - ing zeal; the poor, and  
 Christ we bring, with fer - vent prayer; the way - ward  
 Christ we bring, with one ac - cord; with us the  
 Christ we bring, with joy - ful song; the new - born

them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,  
 and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,  
 work to share, with us re - proach to dare,  
 souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,

sin - sick and sor - row - worn, whom Christ doth heal.  
 re - deemed at count - less cost, from dark de - spair.  
 with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.  
 in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

Benediction  
Postlude

## Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

## **A Service of Word and Table**

### **Invitation**

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **Confession and Pardon**

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

*The people sing their response:*

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of  
power and might. Heav - en and earth are  
full of your glo - - - - -  
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -  
est! Blest is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

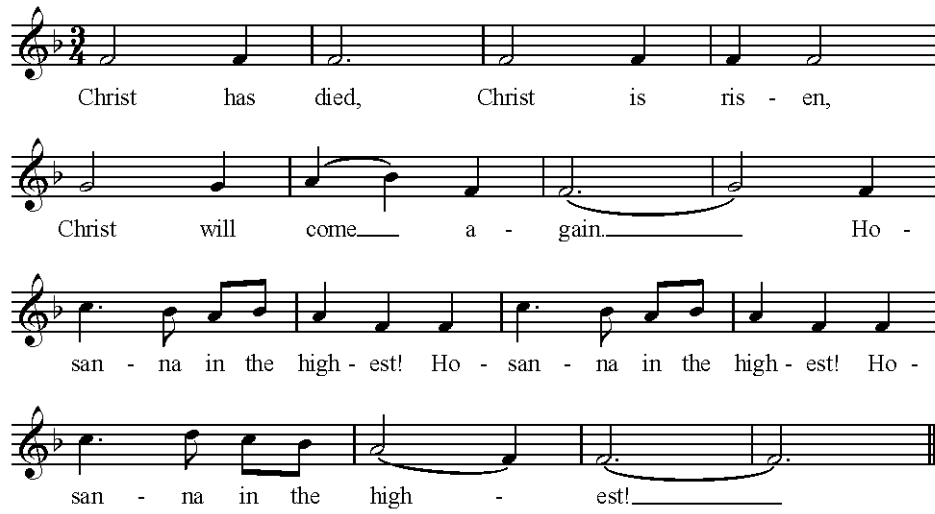
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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

*The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:* And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*The people sing their response:*

## Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,  
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*  
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.*

**ALL: Amen!**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Giving the Cup**