

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 19th, 2023

“25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”

Dallas United Methodist Church

Liturgical Color – Green



TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

***“Well done, good and faithful servant;
you have been faithful over a little ...”***

(Matthew 25:21a ...RSV)

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

The time for harvest is close at hand.

What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen.

** Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

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CHILDREN'S CHAT

Rachel Bird

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are "pack rats", O Lord.

**You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives
and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim.**

We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others.

We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given.

We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the giver.

**As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts
by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world;
remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today.**

**Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story.
Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them,
and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope.
In Jesus' blessed Name, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* *Glory Be to the Father*

70

* *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

117

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER / THREE-FOLD AMEN

(from the ritual of the former Methodist Church)

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD FOR US:

Matthew 25:14-30

(The Liturgist says: "The Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... the People respond: "Thanks BE to God")

SPECIAL MUSIC

Choir

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

"PARABLE OF THE TALENTS"

* OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD ...

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow ... # 94

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**There are no limits to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord.
Now we return thanks to you for these gifts and we bring these token to you,
asking for your blessing on givers and gifts.
Help these gifts and givers to be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.**

* *Faith of Our Fathers*

710

* BENEDICTION

* *God Will Take Care of You*

130 (verses 1, 2)

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

PLEASE JOIN US FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd,
TO DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS.

THERE WILL BE PIZZA AND OTHER “GOODIES”
TO SHARE WHILE WE ARE DECORATING.

THIS WEEK’S DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday ... John 1:43-51

Tuesday ... Luke 8:22-56

Wednesday ... Acts 17:1-9

Thursday ... Luke 19:28-40

Friday ... 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

Saturday ... Matthew 26:1-29

Sunday ... Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 ... Psalm 23:1-6 ...

... 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 ... Matthew 25:31-46 ...

*“Jesus Christ didn’t die for us because it made for good theology,
He died for us because He loved us,
lost us to sin,
and gave Himself up to buy us back.”*

- Unknown

INFORMATION FOR YOU

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS ... Please join us in our Prayer Room following
Worship for a time of fellowship and some good refreshments.

WORLD HUNGER LOVE OFFERING ... This morning we are receiving a love offering
for world hunger. You received a special envelope last Sunday for this offering. If you forgot yours,
we have extra envelopes on the table in the prayer room.

FRUIT & NUT ROLL ... PLEASE PICK YOURS UP TODAY.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ... Dean & Barbara Welch ... (Monday, November 20th)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ... this year’s cost is \$8.00 ... the red poinsettias will be here
December 17th ... the white poinsettias will be here December 24th. Orders are due NEXT SUNDAY,
November 26th. To place your order, please contact Jennie Valick-Kopacz.

PRAY WITH OTHERS ... Join with other laity and clergy from across our Scranton Wilkes-
Barre District Supervisory Area for 30 minutes of intentional prayer on Wednesday mornings
starting at 7:45 AM. Join Zoom by using ... Meeting ID – 897 2237 3231 ... Passcode 711244

HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE ... Sundays at 8:45 AM

VOCAL CHOIR PRACTICE ... Sundays at 9:30 AM

QI-GONG CLASS ... (pronounced Chee Gong) ... Wednesday ... 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM ... class in
the middle room upstairs in the education wing. For more information, please contact Rosalie Allan
(570-885-7412)

CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Gifts for the children from Children & Youth Services are due by Sunday, December 10th.

Please contact Rachel Bird if you have any questions.

We are collecting pajamas for young children and teenagers from Children & Youth Services.

A container is on the floor next to the table in the Mission Area of the Prayer Room
to place your contributions. Gifts are due by Sunday, December 10th.

Gifts for the United Methodist Home in Tunkhannock, PA are due by Sunday, December 10th.

Please contact Sharron Lewis if you have any questions.

Our "HUGS" tree is now up for your gifts
of Hats, Underwear, Gloves, and Scarves
for children and teenagers from Children & Youth Services.

Gifts are due by Sunday, December 10th.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Rev. Dr. Bill Lewis for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with us today!

Thanks to Patti DelGaudio, our Lay Leader, for leading our Worship service today!

Thanks to Rachel Bird for sharing with our young people today!