

# Christ Church United Methodist

July 30, 2023

(in-person) 9 am  
(live-streamed & in - person) 11:15 am

## 9th Sunday after Pentecost Order of Worship

WELCOME

Liz Curtis Higgs

RELUDE

*Sicilienne*  
♦ Eva Rouse, cello

Gabriel Fauré

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Throughout Jesus' journeys, he often went to a solitary place to pray;  
pouring his heart out in conversation with his Father.

People: We, like Jesus, are gathering for this time of worship bringing our open hearts for dialogue with God.

Leader: God is faithful and present and hears all our prayers.

People: In this worship, may each of us journey with Jesus authentically and with willing hearts.

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*  
O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Hymn 57  
st. 1-5, 7

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

People: Christ died for our sins,  
was buried,  
was raised on the third day,  
and appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter and the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
in whom all things hold together,

in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell  
by the power of the Spirit.  
Christ is the head of the body, the church,  
and by the blood of the cross  
reconciles all things to God. Amen.

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

Hymn 62

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise ye! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO PRAYER

*Bless the Lord*

Taizé

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.

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PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

◇ 9:00

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*  
Erin Cornett, solo

Richard Walters

‡ 11:15

*Be Strong and Courageous*  
Tenor and Bass Ensemble

Dennis and Nan Allen

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*SCRIPTURE

*Mark 2:1-12*

SERMON

*Never seen anything like...*

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\*CLOSING HYMN

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Hymn 375

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Some times I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.  
(Refrain)

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you look for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.  
(Refrain)

If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,  
just tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all.  
(Refrain)

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*Fugue in G minor (Little), BWV 578*  
Shawn Dawson, organ

J.S. Bach

◇ Daniel Light, piano

‡ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor; Daniel Light, piano

\*\**Announcements are located on the following pages*

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## THIS MORNING

The flowers in the chancel area are given loving memory of Walter D Calain by his wife, Sharon and daughter, Amy Kapur.

# Spiritual Practice: Hearing God's Word

## Weekly Sermon Companion

Sunday, July 30

Mark 2:1-12

### HIGHLIGHTED VERSES

*And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.* Mark 2:4 (NRSV)

- *“when they could not come nigh unto Him because of the throng, they uncovered the roof where He was...”* (KJ21)
- *“...when they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying”* (CEB)

*When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”* Mark 2:5 (NRSV)

- *“when Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the paralyzed man, ‘Young man, your sins are forgiven’”* (ERV)
- *“impressed by their bold belief, Jesus said to the paraplegic, ‘Son, I forgive your sins’”* (MSG)

*And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”* Mark 2:12 (NRSV)

- *“the man did it—got up, grabbed his stretcher, and walked out, with everyone there watching him. They rubbed their eyes, stunned—and then praised God, saying, ‘We’ve never seen anything like this!’”* (MSG)
- *“at once the man sprang to his feet, picked up his bed and walked off in full view of them all. Everyone was amazed, praised God, and said, ‘We have never seen anything like this before’”* (PHILLIPS)

### NOTES

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME THROUGH TODAY'S MESSAGE?

# Weekly Bible Study

Week of July 31 - August 5

## DAILY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, I confess that sometimes I have questions, even doubts, about who you are and what your purpose is for my life. Help me not be afraid to seek answers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday, July 31

*Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts,* Mark 2:6

These “experts in the law” (EHV) weren’t speaking aloud; they were “silently asking themselves” (Phillips), assuming their thoughts were well hidden from Jesus. A moment later, they learned otherwise. How does the realization that God not only knows what you say and do, but also knows what you *think* impact your day-to-day life?

Tuesday, August 1

*“...It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”* Mark 2:7

The scribes’ unspoken words revealed their disdain for Jesus—“He must think he is God!” (CEV)—though at least they understood that “no one but God can forgive sins” (ERV). When do you find yourself turning to God for forgiveness—at the moment you become aware of having sinned? at the end of each day? during a communion service? What does his forgiveness mean to you?

Wednesday, August 2

*At once Jesus...said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?”* Mark 2:8

Since Jesus knew “what these teachers of the law were thinking” (ERV), he surely caught them off-guard when he asked, “Why must you argue like this in your minds?” (Phillips). When it comes to matters of faith, what doubts do you sometimes wrestle with? What questions nag at you? How might confessing them to the Lord help put your mind at ease?

Thursday, August 3

*Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk?’* Mark 2:9

Like any good rabbi, Jesus taught by asking questions. “Which is simpler” (MSG), he wanted to know. “To say to a paralyzed person, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take up your bed, and walk?’” (CEB) Since both commands take the same amount of time and energy to speak aloud, and both require divine intervention, how would you answer his challenging question?

Friday, August 4

*“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—“I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home.”* Mark 2:10-11

Jesus answered his own question by doing both things at once—setting the man free spiritually *and* physically—“just so it’s clear that I’m the Son of Man and authorized” (MSG). When you’re forgiven, you’re changed on the inside. But when you’re healed, you’re changed on the outside, serving as a witness. What was the result of the Lord’s words and work that day in Capernaum?

Saturday, August 5

Pray first, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and teach you, then read tomorrow’s Scripture passage in preparation for Sunday’s worship service in the Sanctuary.

Mark 4:35-41

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: We will be back **worshipping in the Sanctuary next Sunday**. We look forward to praising the Lord with you there!

**Have three or more generations of your family** been a part of Christ Church? We want to know who you are! Please visit [ccum.net/family](http://ccum.net/family) to let us know! Deadline is July 31.

### Fifth Sunday Offering

In the face of challenge, the **Kentucky United Methodist Children's Home** family has always continued to have a generous and compassionate heart for vulnerable Kentucky children. This offering **represents 25% of critical income for the kids**. They are dependent on these gifts to find healing. If donating by check, please write Fifth Sunday in the memo line, or you can give online at [ccum.net/give](http://ccum.net/give).

### Church-Wide Potluck | Sunday, August 13

We will have **one worship service** at 11:15 am followed by a church-wide potluck! Sunday School will proceed as normal at 10 am. **CCUM will provide fried chicken** and we ask that you bring a side dish (last names A-M) or a salad or dessert (last names N-Z). Please register at [ccum.net/potluck](http://ccum.net/potluck).

### Blessing Sunday: Celebrating Children's Ministry Milestones

We are delighted to kick-off the fall by celebrating two important milestones for our children! On **Sunday, August 20** we will:

- **Bless our Kindergartners**, welcome them into worship and invite them to begin leaving the service early and learning more about God's love at our Children's Worship!
- **Present Bibles to our 3rd Graders** and invite them to begin sitting through worship with their parents.

Registration is required and there will be a rehearsal for both groups in the Sanctuary on Saturday, August 19 at 9 am. (Siblings are welcome.) Later in the day, from 2 – 4 pm, we will also be **Blessing our Animals**. For more information and to register please visit [ccum.net/children](http://ccum.net/children).

### Summer Shenanigans with SAM | Monday, August 14 | 11:30 am

A sunny devotion from Liz Curtis Higgs, Summer Bell Ringing (why not?!) with Donna Vaughn, a light lunch, fun table games—and it's all free! Register: [ccum.net/SAM](http://ccum.net/SAM)

**Booked For Lunch** is a monthly **book club for women** of all ages. We believe novels provide a powerful avenue for thinking more deeply about God and the world. We meet the **2nd Thursday** of every month in **Room 156** at **12 pm**—bring a lunch and join us! The **next meeting is Thursday, August 10**, discussing *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. Our list of future books can be found at [ccum.net/women](http://ccum.net/women).

### Advanced Lay Servant Course - Spiritual Gifts & Sacraments

Saturday, August 12 | 9 am - 2:30 pm | Kentucky Conference Office - Crestwood, Ky

This **upcoming Heartland District training** is for any layperson (congregant) who is seeking an understanding of United Methodist belief in Spiritual Gifts and Sacraments (Baptism & Holy Communion). Those who volunteer in service to others in ministries related to children, youth, congregational care, outreach and senior ministries might be among those who choose to attend this **beautiful day meant to inform and empower the body of Christ**. Please register by emailing Jill Starkey at [jstarkey@kyumc.org](mailto:jstarkey@kyumc.org) or by phone at 502-491-7091. Lunch provided.

### SAM Outing | Tuesday, August 22 | State Fair

Sign up for our first outing of the fall - **Senior Day at the Kentucky State Fair!** Join us as we experience this unique annual festival that celebrates local and statewide heritage through blue ribbon competition, concerts, special exhibits and more! We'll meet at the church at 9:30 am and return around 3 pm. Please register at [ccum.net/SAM](http://ccum.net/SAM).

## PSALM Kids Registration is Here!

Our children's music program begins on Wednesday, August 23 at 6 pm and is open to everyone, **preK through 5th grade**. All are welcome! No previous musical experience is necessary. Contact Ben Williams at [ben@ccum.net](mailto:ben@ccum.net) for more information or sign up at [ccum.net/psalmkids](http://ccum.net/psalmkids).

## Youth Music Opening Night | Sunday, August 20 | 5 pm

This is the **kick-off event** for all things **youth music, and it is for youth, parents and volunteers**. We will get all your questions answered, forms filled out, concert attire distributed and much more! If you are ready to register for youth music, you can do so at [ccum.net/youthmusic](http://ccum.net/youthmusic). Questions? Contact Dr. Dan at [dan@ccum.net](mailto:dan@ccum.net).

## Men's Morning Coffee Returns! | Tuesdays | 7 - 8 am | Fellowship Hall

We took a break during July, but **beginning again on August 1**, we invite you to come join other men on Tuesday mornings anytime between 7 - 8 am. Stop in grab a coffee and donut, connect/reconnect with old and new friends and listen to a short devotional.

## Chancel Choir rehearsal begins on Wednesday, August 9 at 7:30 pm!

Anyone and everyone are welcome. No audition, no registration, and no experience required. Contact Dr. Dan at [dan@ccum.net](mailto:dan@ccum.net) or 882-9698 for more information, or just show up on August 9 and there will be a place for you. Come and **be a part of this incredible faith community** and make a joyful noise until the Lord!

## Men's Ministry: Just for Men | Wednesdays at 7:30 am via Zoom

Join Rev. Mike Porter, Director of Men's Ministries and Discipleship, as he shares scripture and discussion for men during these trying times. Drop-in to our weekly gathering. If interested, please email [katie@ccum.net](mailto:katie@ccum.net) to be sent the Zoom link.

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## Early Fall Adult Classes on Wednesday Evenings

August 23 – September 13 | 6:15pm – 7:15pm | Second Floor Classrooms | Four different classes to choose from! Visit [ccum.net/classes](http://ccum.net/classes) for more information and registration.

### A Study of Galatians with Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

Explore the difference between living by the law and living by grace.

### Parenting for Real with Shelah Woodruff and Mike Porter

Share an honest conversation about the myths of perfect parenting.

### Celtic Christianity with Rev. Robin T. Jennings and Liz Curtis Higgs

Discover the deep Christian faith of the ancient Celts.

### Discussing Caste with members of the CCUM Racial Justice Team

Read *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by author Isabel Wilkerson.



## Women's Ministry Fall Event: The Power of Stories | Saturday, September 16 | 9:30 am - 12 pm | Youth Center

Mark your calendars! Our third gathering this year promises to be **the most meaningful yet**, as we share from our hearts and encourage one another. Please register for this free event at [ccum.net/women](http://ccum.net/women).

**SAVE THE DATE!** On Saturday, September 23, our congregation and friends will serve across our community as part of **Christ Church Cares Day**. A variety of projects will be available in the morning and afternoon, for all ages and skill levels, including projects for the entire family. Details coming soon.