



Rembrandt, *Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem*, (1630)



ASHLAND PLACE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 14, 2025 14th Sunday After Pentecost

– *We Gather* –

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Rev. Jennifer Porto

Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

PRELUDE

Melodie

Gluck-Kreisler

Silvia Rath, violin

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Laureen Lynn

The Lord looks down from heaven to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

They have all gone astray, there is no one who is good, no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, those who devour God's people and do not call upon the Lord?

O that our deliverer would come! Lord, restore our lives and make us glad.

♪❖ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

Come, Thou Almighty King

UMH 61

❖ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect of this hour, that we will leave much the way we came. Do not abandon us to our foolishness. In judgment, illumine our darkness. In mercy, bear us home until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored.

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE** *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

– *Service of Holy Baptism* –

see insert

James Barnett Lyon

♪ **BAPTISMAL HYMN**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

UMH 611

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

❖ *Please Stand in body or spirit* **Bold Print** – *Congregation Reads Aloud*

– *We Listen* –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, you spoke the world into being; speak now to our hearts. By the power of your Spirit, make these ancient words live, that we might be shaped into your people, eager to bear your claim in the world and to give flesh to your future. For we pray in the name of Jesus, who leads us into life. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 14

UMH 746-747

Please join the choir in the sung response when indicated by the red R.

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION

Steal Away to Jesus

UMH 704

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

After the children's moment, children may leave with our staff to go to the nursery. Following the service, parents can meet their children in The Landing.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

MORNING PRAYER AND 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.

♪ACT OF PRAISE

Have You Not Heard?

Courtney

Chancel Choir with Silvia Rath, violin

❖SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

¹¹At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, ¹²a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

²²"For my people are foolish; they do not know me; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil but do not know how to do good." ²³I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos, and to the heavens, and they had no light. ²⁴I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. ²⁵I looked, and there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. ²⁶I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. ²⁷For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation,

yet I will not make a full end.²⁸ Because of this the earth shall mourn and the heavens above grow black, for I have spoken; I have purposed; I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Keep Looking!"

Dr. Darren McClellan

— *WE RESPOND* —

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**— The Apostle's Creed UMH 881
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And 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, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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. **universal*

♪❖ **GLORIA PATRI** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *God of Wonders* arr. Alex-Zsolt

♪❖ **DOXOLOGY**
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.

— *WE GO FORTH* —

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖ **HYMN OF INVITATION** *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord* (v. 1, 3) UMH 352

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE** *Italian Hymn* Giardini

A special love offering will be taken up today to support the USA Wesley Foundation, our local United Methodist Campus ministry. At the University of South Alabama, students are searching for belonging, hope, and spiritual guidance. Your gift will help ensure students have a Christ-centered home on campus.

✠ **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of James Barnett Lyon by his grandparents, Ana and Jim Mercer.



WELCOME

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

CONNECT

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Dr. Darren McClellan dmcclellan@apumc.com
Associate Pastor	Jennifer Porto jporto@apumc.com
Music Director	Alicia Luttrell musicdirector@apumc.com
Administrator	Kim Brown admin@apumc.com
Youth and Technology	Joseph Griggs youth@apumc.com
Communication	Leslie Johnston communication@apumc.com
Ascension	Jon Miller millermediaonline@gmail.com
Children	Linda Noble Linda.q.noble@gmail.com
Nursery	Caitlyn Lambeth children@apumc.com
Membership	membership@apumc.com
Preschool	Mary Hunter Fuller Camille Hieronymus preschool@apumc.com
Building Steward	Danny White building@apumc.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 9/7//25 \$30,830



ONLINE GIVING

To support the many ministries of APUMC, please scan this QR code and donate online.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

September 14, 2025

9:00am	Ascension Modern Service (FH)
10:00am	Sunday School
11:00am	Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
5:30pm	Youth (B)

Monday Men's Study Group, 7:00am (WP)
Women's Bible Study, 10:00am (FH)

Tuesday Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)

Wednesday The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW)
Handbell Practice, 5:00pm
Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30pm
Choir Practice, 6:00pm
Pastor's Class, 6:00pm (FP)

Thursday Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP)
The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW)
Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)

Friday Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

It's not too late to join the Monday morning women's bible study of Jeremiah, "Return to Refuge." They meet on Mondays at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

We had a great kickoff to WNS last week. If you missed it, please plan to join us this week for a potato bar with all the fixings. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY AND ASCENSION BIRTHDAY!

Sunday, September 21 will be a special day! Our children will help lead both worship services, and our third graders will receive their bibles. We will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Ascension Service with a birthday cake at 10:00.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING

The Admin. Board will meet Wednesday, September 24 at noon in the Fellowship Parlor.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers: Eloise Adams (Fay Adams' sister in law), John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Barbara Bohnhoff (Becky Mayhall's mother), Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Julie & Steve Dugan, Jake Elder, Mihyon Ellis, Peggy Emond (David Mayhall's sister), Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Marcia Golson, Jim Harter, Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Peggy Tanner (Cindy Roton's mother), Jody Thompson (Pam Bostick's brother-in-law), Louise Thomson, Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

Hymns and Responses for September 14, 2025

Come, Thou Almighty King

UMH 61

1. Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise! Father all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!
2. Come, thou incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty
sword, our prayer attend! Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us de-
scend!
3. Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this
glad hour. Thou who almighty art, now rule in every
heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!
4. To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence,
evermore. Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore!

Steal Away to Jesus

UMH 704

1. Steal away, steal away; steal away to Jesus. Steal away,
steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord
he calls me, he calls me by the thunder; the trumpet
sounds within-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.
2. Steal away, steal away; steal away to Jesus. Steal away,
steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here. Green
trees a-bending, poor sinners stand a-trembling; the
trumpet sounds within-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay
here.
3. Steal away, steal away; steal away to Jesus. Steal away,
steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord
he calls me, he calls me by the lightning; the trumpet
sounds within-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.
Steal away, steal away; steal away to Jesus. Steal away,
steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here.

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

UMH 352

1. It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord, standing in the need
of prayer. (Hallelujah, Lord, it's me!) It's me (it's me), it's
me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. 1. Not my
brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in
the need of prayer. Not my brother, not my sister, but
it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
3. Not my father, not my mother, . . .

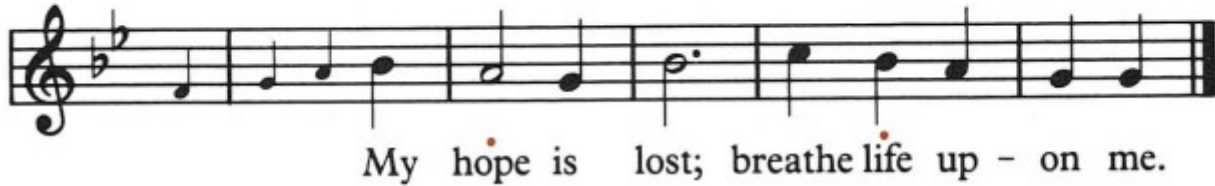
Psalter Reading from Psalm 14

Psalm 14

Alan Luff (Ezek. 37:1-14)

Richard Proulx

RESPONSE (*General*)



R

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none that does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven on all people, to see if there are any that are wise, who seek after God.

They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is none that does good, no, not one.

R

Have they no knowledge, the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord?

There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores their fortunes, Jacob shall rejoice and Israel shall be glad!

R

A Service of Holy Baptism

James “Barnett” Lyon



INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE *The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN & PROFESSION OF FAITH *The pastor addresses the parents.*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **I will.**

The pastor addresses all: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin, and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?
With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God and be found faithful in service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

The pastor addresses the parents:

Do you believe in God the Father?
I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
I do.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood, you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

The pastor addresses the parents:

What name is given this child? *James Barnett*

BAPTISM

James Barnett, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome *Barnett*, our new brother in Christ.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend *Barnett* to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you, in the body of Christ, and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

♪ BAPTISMAL HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

UMH 611

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

James Barnett Lyon

Parents: Camille and Christopher Lyon

Siblings: Neal and Mercer

Grandparents: Libba and BJ Lyon and Ana and Jim Mercer

Godparents: Margaret Mercer and Charlie Dodson

September 14, 2025

ASHLAND PLACE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mobile, Alabama