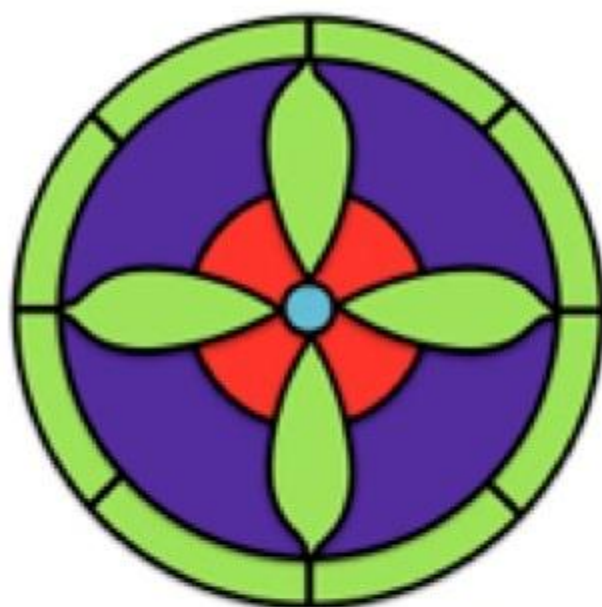




ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Richmond † Texas

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENECCOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
8:30 & 11:00AM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP

You are invited to use this bulletin during our live worship service at 11:00am on Sunday morning. To access our live worship, please [click here](#).

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalms 103*)

Leader: The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

People: **He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.**

Leader: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: **He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities.

People: **For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

Leader: as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

All: **As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

SONG OF PRAISE

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #127

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'

²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 have trespassed 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.

SONGS OF REFLECTION

"Awesome God"

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love
Our God is an awesome God

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"Majesty"

Majesty, worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise
Majesty, kingdom authority

#176

Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

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PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and TITHES

(Thank you for your generosity! To contribute electronically, please see the QR code.)

SHARING OUR GIFTS

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:21-34

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their

lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt.

SERMON

"Sent with Grace"

Rev. Richard Luna

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

SONG OF INVITATION

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

#560

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some
To love them as we find them, or as they may become

Let Your acceptance change us,
So that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love
To practice Your acceptance, until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need
Who hunger for acceptance,
For righteousness and for bread
We need new eyes for seeing,
New hands for holding on
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us make us one

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SENDING FORTH

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Awesome God"

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love
Our God is an awesome God

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GOING FORTH

Blessed by God's love and strengthened by God's Grace, let us be the church to the people we are with.
Amen.

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Andrew and Stephanie Phillips to celebrate their
twenty-first wedding anniversary.*

*QR Code provided for your tithes and offerings.
Thank you.*

