

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebration of Worship – *Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost - September 20, 2020*

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PRELUDE.....“How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou”.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
from *Fifteen Pieces*  
[ANTIPHON V]  
Marcel Dupré

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. David Hobson

† CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Dr. David Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”.....No. 110

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Debby Williams

CELEBRATION OF LIFE.....Tami White

MUSICAL OFFERING.....“Come unto Him” .....Dr. Janani Sridhar, soprano  
from *Messiah*  
George Frideric Handel

† SCRIPTURE READING.....1 Peter 1:3-7.....Debby Williams  
See scripture reading on Text Page

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† 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.*

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JOYS & CONCERNS.....Dr. Pat Day

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

*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.*

PRAYER RESPONSE.....Sweet Hour of Prayer.....Women's Ensemble

William B. Bradbury

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....How Lovely are Thy Dwellings.....Women's Ensemble

Samuel Liddle/arr. Tom Fettke

† Doxology .....No. 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,  
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Daniel 3:13-27.....Dr. Pat Day

See scripture reading on Text Page

MESSAGE.....STANDING FIRM IN THE FIRE.....Dr. Pat Day

I. First, **RESOLVE** to face the furnace.

II. Second, **RECOGNIZE** the fire refines, tests and strengthens our faith.

III. Third, **RELEASE** and leave the results to the Lord.

IV. Fourth, **RELY** on His Presence being with you in the fire.

V. Finally, **REALIZE** there is no limit to what God can do if you give Him the glory.

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“How Firm a Foundation”.....No. 529  
*(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)*

BENEDICTION .....Dr. Pat Day

SENDING FORTH.....*Grace, Love, and Fellowship*.....Women’s Ensemble  
Tom Fettke

POSTLUDE.....“Finale” from *Symphony #2*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
Charles-Marie Widor



† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

**Hymn of Praise No. 110**  
**“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”**

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,  
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is forever.

**Hymn of Invitation No. 529**  
**“How Firm a Foundation”**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

## Affirmation of Faith

No. 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.

## 1 Peter 1:3-7

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

### Daniel 3:13-27

“Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.”