

Good Morning!

North Bend Church
a Global Methodist Congregation

Sunday, September 24, 2023
Because God is worthy we worship

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY is next Sunday, October 1st. We will be observing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper during our worship hour that day.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE The very first meeting of the Allegheny West Annual Conference will be held October 12-14 in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. North Bend Church is now part of the Allegheny West Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. We are sending Dennis George as our delegate to the Annual Conference this year.

The purpose of each annual meeting is to gather clergy and lay delegates from each congregation who worship together,

celebrate God's church, ordain new pastors, and strategize for effective and faithful ministry. Above all, remembering our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: Open your hearts to God's loving mercy.

People: Lord, come into our hearts this day.

Leader: Having received God's mercy, bring that love to others.

People: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in compassion.

Leader: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

People: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which you pour into our lives. Amen.

***Singing**

He Is Lord

UMH #177

(twice)

**He is Lord, he is Lord!
He is risen from the dead
and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together¹**

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & 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.

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Anthem

Reading the Scripture

John 8:12-18 (NIV)

- 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- 13 The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."
- 14 Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.
- 15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.
- 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.
- 17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.
- 18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

I AM the Light of the World

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

Be Thou My Vision

UMH #451

(vs. 1, 3)

**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

¹*From "Worship Connection: September 24, 2023," by Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com.*