

We Gather to Worship God

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This becomes the backdrop for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter to which he follows, "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand as Peter and Solomon did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Albert Peace

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

(with Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21)

Lib Wellons, *piano I* and Margaret Jordan, *piano II*

INTROIT

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 2004

Hyfrydol

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

* OPENING DIALOGUE

In this house you will find bread for your life's journey.

In Jesus we find life anew.

Come. Stay awhile so you will never hunger.

In Jesus we find life anew.

Come. Be strengthened in God to withstand the present night and the spiritual forces of evil.

In Jesus we find life anew.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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.

* THE GLORIA PATRI No. 70

Meineke

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Before God and all the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

(silence is kept for reflection)

God and Father of all,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

We have thought better of ourselves than others.

We have told lies, said hurtful things,

acted in ways we wish we could take back,

and looked the other way when action was needed.

In your mercy, O God,

forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us,

for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven! Amen.

* THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

**All may exchange signs of peace.*

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

All students with their backpacks along with all teachers and other school personal are invited to come forward and kneel along the Chancel Rail for the Blessing.

Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here. These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework. Notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, rulers, scissors, glue sticks and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks.

Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

Let us pray: **Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students. They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.**

Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well. We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day. Amen.

~ *WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD* ~

THE FIRST LESSON

I Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. "Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O Lord You Know My Heart

Sandra Ford

* THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 6:56-69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

Mr. Josh

Children ages three through first-grade may go to Children’s Church in room 123. Nurseries provided for infants through 3 years in rooms 118 & 120.

SERMON

Rev. Kyle Randle

Around the Table

~ **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD** ~

* HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 530

Beacon Hill

Are Ye Able

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Pastorale

J. K. Kuchar

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Doxology No. 95

~ **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD** ~

* THE HYMN OF SENDING No. 396

Angel’s Story

O Jesus, I Have Promised

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Jacques Lemmens

Fanfare

* CONGREGATION STANDING

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our mothers’ birthdays,
Mary T. Foxworth on August 27th
and
Betty James on September 2nd
With love, Bill and Karen Foxworth

Serving This Sunday, August 26

Altar Guild: Dawne Clonts, Freda Jones, Suzanne Owens, Amelia Woods

Acolytes and Crucifer: Jonas Randle, Anna Kate Nelson, Annie Cecil

Bus Duty: Mark Chanaca

Children’s Church: Daniel and Laura Hunnicutt

Counting Committee: Sallie Goldfinch, Lynn Hammond

Trustee Duty: Brian Stewart and Anna Barnhill

Sound Technicians: Lee Hickman, Charles Hucks, Dave Carey

Ushers: Duc Watts (Chairman), Jack Driggers, James Hammond, Jimmy Jones, George Martin, Dick Sayre, Phillip Thompson, Ernie Turnes

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, August 26

9:00 a.m. Doughnuts, Coffee and Juice Fellowship / Commons

9:30 a.m. Sunday School / Education Wing / First and Second Floors

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Meeting / Students and Parents / FLC Room 101

9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast WRNN 99.5 FM

10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Blessing of the Backpacks / Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Back to School Cookout / Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 28

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting / Room 213

6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study / Family Life Center (FLC) Room 103

6:00 p.m. Cocaine Anonymous (CA) Meeting / FLC Room 102

8:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting / FLC Room 101

Wednesday, August 29

6:00 p.m. Preschool Open House / Education Wing

6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study / FLC Room 101

Thursday, August 30

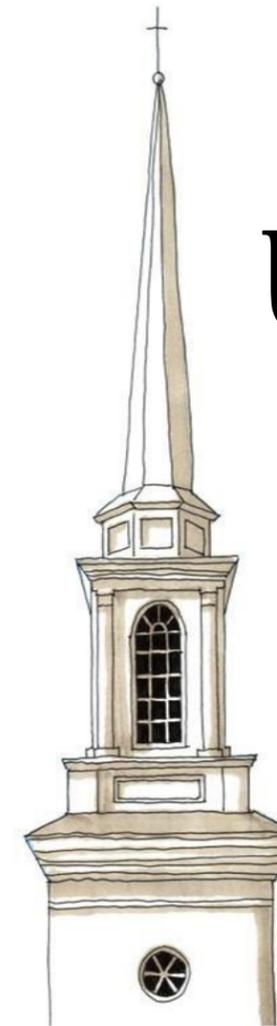
6:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting / FLC Room 101

Friday, August 31

7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC Room 102



OPEN DOORS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED. Epworth Children’s Home goes above and beyond providing food and shelter for children who have experienced abuse, neglect and tragedy. It provides children with tutoring, counseling, health care, fun activities, and the spiritual formation they need to heal and gain a sense of belonging. Through the ministry of Epworth Children’s Home we open our doors to these children, surround them with comprehensive care and provide them with the opportunity to transform their lives. On **Sunday, September 9th** our congregation will stand with Epworth to break the cycle of abuse, neglect and shame through our collection of the **Annual Epworth Work Day Offering**. Without the support of churches like ours, Epworth could not provide transformational care for children in need. We invite you to give generously to the children who call Epworth home. For more information, please visit Epworth on the web at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.



First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue
Conway, South Carolina 29526
(843) 488-4251
www.fumcconway.org

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 26, 2018
10:30 a.m.



Welcome to First United Methodist Church

Out of a broken and sinful world, all people are welcomed into the body of Jesus Christ at First Church. As children of God, together we join in worship to experience the transforming love of our Savior.

We are here this morning to worship God. Through our songs, words of praise, prayers and scripture reading, we give honor and glory to God. Wondrous things happen as we worship. Lives are changed. The presence of God brings hope, comfort, healing, and joy. Let us worship in gladness. Jesus, the Lord of Life is with us.