

First Church at Worship

J. S. Bach

Toccata in E minor

* THE GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
 The risen Christ is with us.
Praise the Lord!

FOUNDATION

How Firm a Foundation

* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

~ WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ~

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28

¹ Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ² These are the descendants of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. ¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:7-13

HURSLEY

**Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love,
And let your saving grace be near;
To those who turn their hearts to him
The Lord speaks peace and I will hear.**

**To everyone who worships him
His saving help is very near;
His purpose is that in our land
His radiant glory may appear.**

**Mercy and truth at last have met,
Justice and peace are reconciled;
Truth has arisen from the earth,
Justice looked down from heaven and smiled.**

**The Lord will grant prosperity,
Our land will yield its full increase;
Justice shall go before the Lord,
The pathway for his feet is peace.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God.

STORIES OF JESUS

Tell Me Stories of Jesus
(Sts. 1-2)

* THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and,

beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

STORIES OF JESUS

Tell Me Stories of Jesus
(St. 3)

Rev. Kyle

Rev. Kyle D. Randle

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

The Apostle's Creed

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.**

MEINKE

**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.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Compassionate God,
We confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
God of grace,
hear our 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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Carlton Russell

* PRESENTATION OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Doxology No. 95
**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 ARE SENT FORTH ~

* HYMN OF SENDING No. 368
My Hope is Built THE SOLID ROCK

* BENEDICTION

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Paul Manz

The flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of 53 years of marriage to Libby Saville
on August 11th by Mike Saville.

The rose on the chancel is in honor of
Evelyn Agnes Clonts
born July 28, 2026 to Brendon and Luann Clonts.
Proud grandparents
are Dawne and Danny Clonts and great grandmother
Josephine Holbert.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of
Ben Smith. Ben joined our Heavenly Father
on July 19, 2026

Thank you for worshipping with us to-day!

Take a moment for prayer before you leave to acknowledge the God who loves you and welcomes you. Give thanks for those who have come before us, providing spaces like this one, set apart for the praise and worship of God.

Give thanks for the beauty of the creation that surrounds us and sings to us of the loving design of the Creator. Ask for God’s presence along your journey, knowing that wherever you go, you do not go alone. May God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

FUMC Staff

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Gayle Fanshaw, Nursery Attendant	
Alexis Newcomb, Nursery Attendant	

Congratulations to our 2026/2027 FUMC Scholarship Recipients

Annie Cecil - Clemson
Matthew Daly - Clemson
Jackson Hagen - Clemson
Kinley Jones - Clemson
Jonas Randle - Virginia Tech
Anna Claire Roof - USC
Chad Steinfield - HGTC

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11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church

- We are so glad you are here! We are a grace-filled United Methodist community in the South Carolina conference where all are welcome.
- Restrooms are located in the rear of the Sanctuary under the staircase leading to the balcony to your left.
 - First UMC offers listening devices to those who may need them. Please see an usher for assistance.
 - First UMC may live stream and record services.
 - Fully staffed child care is available during the 9:30 am Sunday School and the 10:30 am Worship Service.
 - Busy bags for children are available as you enter the Sanctuary and in the hallway just past the double doors at the front of the Sanctuary.