

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Even when you seem far away, O God, you give us our daily bread and deliver us from evil. May the gifts we bring before you this day be signs of our gratitude for your gifts. Bless this offering, that our gifts may be vessels of your overflowing grace. Through these gifts, may others come to know the joy of your salvation, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN *O Jesus, I Have Promised* **Blue Hymnal, #612**

BENEDICTION

Preacher: You have been made free by the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Go into the world to serve God by helping others. Be at peace and bring God's peace and love with you wherever you go.

All people: Amen.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING **Acolyte**

POSTLUDE **Mr. Kevin Crone**

References

- Unless otherwise noted, all liturgies written by: Beu, B., Scifres, M. (2023-04-18). The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024. [[VitalSource Bookshelf version]]. Retrieved from vbk://9781791027056
- Benediction written by: Townley, Nancy C. Ministry Matters: October 13, 2024. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3119/worship-connection-october-13-2024>

October 13, 2024
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

PREWORSHIP MUSIC **Mr. Kevin Crone**

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING **Acolyte**

CENTERING WORDS

Where do you go, Elusive One, when all hope fades? Be with us in our time of need and do not take your Holy Spirit from us.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Where do we turn when our cries go unanswered?
Congregation: Where do we turn when we feel forsaken and alone?

Liturgist: We search for God before and behind us,

Congregation: but God is not there.

Liturgist: We search for God above and beneath us,
but come away empty.

**Congregation: Yet even now, we will commit ourselves to God.
Even now, we will put our trust in the Lord.**

All people: Come! Let us worship, beginning in prayer, together.

OPENING PRAYER

All: Elusive One, be near us in our need. For we are poured out like water and our hearts melt like wax within us. You have watched over us since our birth as a mother watches over her children. Come to us swiftly and be with us now, for the darkness threatens and the light fades. Help us in our weakness and touch us with your mercy and your grace. Amen.

HYMN *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* **Blue Hymnal, #576**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Preacher: With faith that looks up to God and finds confidence in the promise of grace and mercy, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: You set before us the ways of life and death, O God. Help us keep to your path when the road is hard, and the cost seems high. We yearn to touch your perfect love, if only it didn't mean giving up our comfort and our privilege. We long to love you with perfect devotion, but we are loathe to alter our selfish ways. Lift us beyond the empty shells of our shut-up hearts and help us find our way home. For in your love, all things are possible. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Who can be saved?
Congregation: **With mortals or human beings, it is impossible.**
Liturgist: But for God, all things are possible.
Congregation: **God is gracious and forgiving.**
Liturgist: Accept God's forgiveness and begin anew.
All people: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE *Gloria Patri* **Blue Hymnal, #35**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Preacher: Christ sympathizes with us in our weakness and comes to us in our need. In gratitude for this great gift, let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another using the words: "Welcome" and "Peace be with you."
Congregation: **"Welcome" and "Peace be with you, too."**

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN *Why Stand so Far Away, My God?* **Blue Hymnal, #671**

HEBREW READING

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

EPISTLE READING

James 2:1-17

GOSPEL READING

Mark 7:24-37

SERMON

Equilla Curry

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preacher: We believe that our God sees us, feels us, and listens to us. Let us lift the celebrations and concerns of our beloved community.

JOYS AND CONCERNS SHARED

All people: Dear God, we know that you have heard our prayers, and we ask that the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with us today and every day. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

ANTHEM *Who is This Man Upon the Cross* (Beall/Cortner) **Chancel Choir**

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God has chosen the poor as heirs of God's kingdom. God calls us to value the needs of this world more highly than we value silver and gold. May our offerings reflect the values to which God calls us. Let us dedicate all we give with a song and prayer.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY *Praise God* **Blue Hymnal, #46**