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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: ***God of abundance, receive these gifts and the lives they represent. Use them to feed the hungry, comfort the grieving, welcome the excluded, teach the searching, challenge injustice, and strengthen the work of your Church. Let our generosity become more than intention. Through these gifts and through our lives, send your love into the world. Amen.***

HYMN *Here, I Am Lord* **Blue Hymnal #452**

COMMISSION

Pastor: We have gathered to worship.
Congregation: **Now God sends us to serve.**
Pastor: We have heard the Word.
Congregation: **Now we will seek to embody it.**
Pastor: We have received grace.
Congregation: **Now we will practice grace in the world.**
Pastor: Go to love your neighbors, seek justice, and follow Christ.
Congregation: **We go to put our faith into action and be the Church.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the God of justice give you courage. May, Jesus, our servant and teacher, lead you toward your neighbor. May the Holy Spirit transform your compassion into action, your prayers into faithful presence, and your hope into perseverance. Go from this place to love boldly, serve humbly, speak truthfully, and walk faithfully.
All people: ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE & CANDLE EXTINGUISHING **Mr. Kevin Crone & Acolyte**

SENDING WORDS

Pastor: Go now in peace to be the Church in the world God knows.
All people: ***Amen.***

September 6, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost
United in Christ Worship Series – *Faith That Moves Into the World*

PREWORSHIP MUSIC
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: We now light the candles as a reminder that Christ is present among us.
All people: ***We will carry the light of Christ into the work of compassion, justice, and peace.***

PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING **Mr. Kevin Crone & Acolyte**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God calls us to worship with our voices.
Congregation: **God also calls us to worship through our lives.**
Pastor: God receives our prayers and songs.
Congregation: **God also hears the cries of those who suffer.**
Pastor**:** God gathers us to receive grace.
Congregation: **God sends us to embody grace.**
Pastor: Let justice roll down like waters.
Congregation: **And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**
Pastor: Come, let us worship the God who joins faith with action.
All people: ***Let us worship God together!***

HYMN ***O For a World*** **BLUE Hymnal #683**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Beloved of God, The prophet Amos reminds us that worship and justice cannot be separated. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess the distance between the faith we proclaim and the lives we sometimes lead. God's welcome is wide, but the Church's welcome has not always reflected the heart of God. Trusting in divine mercy, let us confess our need for grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: ***God of mercy, we confess that it is easier to speak about love than to practice it. We offer prayers for those who suffer but sometimes remain distant from their pain. We give thanks for justice but hesitate when justice requires our courage, time, comfort, or resources. We notice immediate needs but do not always question the systems that keep creating them. We have sometimes used faith to protect what is familiar rather than to follow Jeus. We have sometimes remained silent because***

speaking seemed uncomfortable. Forgive us. Let our worship shape our living, our compassion become action, and our faith becomes visible in the way we love our neighbors. Make us doers of your Word and participants in your healing work. Amen. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the Good News. God's mercy is not given because we have acted perfectly. Grace meets us where we see and gives us courage to begin anew.

All people: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Through the Holy Spirit we are renewed. By God's love, we are sent back into the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.***

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

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: Christ's peace is more than polite welcome. It is the promise that we belong to God and are responsible for one another. The peace of Christ be with you!

Congregation: **And, also with you.**

Pastor: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME" – ***Faith with Shoes On***

HYMN ***O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*** **Blue Hymnal #602**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

All people: ***Living God, your Word does not leave us unchanged. As the scriptures are read, open our ears to the cries of your people, our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, and our hearts to the demands of love. Save us from hearing without responding. Through your Holy Spirit, make us doers of your Word and followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING **Amos 5:21-24**
SECOND SCRIPTURE READING **James 2:14-18**

SERMON ***Faith That Moves Into the World*** **Rev. Laura C. Baker**

INVITATION TO REFLECTION

Pastor: Let us take a quiet moment to consider one or more of the following questions:

- What faithful action is close enough, concrete enough, and possible enough for us to begin now?
- How can the Church speak publicly without becoming partisan or self-righteous?
- Whose God-given gifts are still restricted by prejudice, policy, or fear?

AFFIRMATION OF SHARED MINISTRY

Pastor: We believe in God, who created the world and called it good.

Congregation: **the earth and all its people belong to God.**

Pastor: We believe in Jesus Christ, who proclaimed good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, and dignity to those pushed aside.

Congregation: **We will follow Jesus toward our neighbors and into the places where love is needed.**

Pastor: We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives courage, wisdom, and gifts for the common good.

Congregation: **The Spirit equips ordinary people to participate in God's healing work.**

Pastor: We believe faith is more than words spoken or beliefs privately held.

Congregation: **Faith becomes visible through compassion, justice, generosity, and peace.**

Pastor: We believe the Church is gathered for worship and sent for service.

Congregation: **What we proclaim within these walls, we will seek to embody beyond them.**

All people: ***With God's help, we will love our neighbors, protect human dignity, challenge injustice, care for creation, share what we have, and follow Jesus into the life of the world. Amen.***

PRAYER & 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC **Summer Choir**

An Offering Collection Box is located on the table between the sanctuary & overflow area

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Faith becomes visible through what we do with what God has entrusted to us. Our offerings help feed neighbors, sustain ministries, nurture faith, strengthen communities, and carry compassion beyond these walls. Let us offer our gifts not merely to maintain what exists, but to participate in what God is continuing to do.