



Faith - Family - Fellowship

ORDER OF WORSHIP
TRADITIONAL SERVICE
MAY 4, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP	Oh Happy Day	Chancel Choir
PRELUDE		LT
GREETING & PRAYER OF CONFESSION		PR
HYMN OF FAITH	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (Hymnal #57 Vs. 1, 2, & 3)	Chancel Choir & Congregation
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	World Methodist Social Affirmation	Hank Sieling
GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father	Chancel Choir & Congregation
WORDS OF WISDOM	Psalms 139:1-24	Hank Sieling
ANTHEM OF HOPE	Here I Am to Worship (COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS)	Chancel Choir
DOXOLOGY / BLESSING OF THE OFFERING	Hymnal #95	Chancel Choir & Congregation
WORD OF GOD	1 Timothy 6:11-21	Melinda Wood
SPIRITUAL VITAMIN	What's Your Testimony Going To Be?	
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH / THE LORD'S PRAYER		Shawn Boykin
HYMN OF LOVE	Ye Servants of God (Hymnal #181 - Vs. 1 & 4)	Chancel Choir & Congregation
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS		
BENEDICTION		LT

GREETING

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to witness you.

People: **You bring glory to the earth, from the deepest valley to the highest mountain.**

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to listen to you.

People: **You call us to go and bring good news to your people**

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to praise you.

People: **You invite us to your table and draw us into your presence.**

Leader: Lord, today we gather to worship you.

People: **Fill our hearts, minds, and souls with your Holy Spirit. Guide us with your mercy to be courageous to spread the Good News to all we meet.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord, we confess our day to day failure to be truly human.

People: **Lord, we confess to you.**

Leader: Lord, we confess that we often fail to love with all we have and are, often because we do not fully understand what loving means, often because we are afraid of risking ourselves.

People: **Lord, we confess to you.**

Leader: Lord, we cut ourselves off from each other and we erect barriers of division.

People: **Lord, we confess to you.**

Leader: Lord, we confess that by silence and ill-considered word

People: **we have built up walls of prejudice.**

Leader: Lord, we confess that by selfishness and lack of sympathy

People: **we have stifled generosity and left little time for others.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, speak to us. Help us listen to your word of forgiveness, for we are very deaf. Come, fill this moment and free us from sin.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The World Methodist Social Affirmation

Leader: We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

People: We believe; God, help our unbelief.

Leader: We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom: in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

People: Glory be to God on high; and on earth, peace.

Leader: We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith; through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference; through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come.

People: Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

WORDS OF WISDOM - Psalm 139:1-24

Today's Words of Wisdom, written by King David, come to us from the Book of Psalms, chapter 139. This scripture reveals God's perfect knowledge of knowing just who you are.

God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand. I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking. You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight. You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence. I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too—your reassuring presence, coming and going. This is too much, too wonderful—I can't take it all in! Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute—you're already there waiting! Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!" It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you. Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day. Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I'll never comprehend them! I couldn't even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you! And please, God, do away with wickedness for good! And you murderers—out of here!—all the men and women who belittle you, God, infatuated with cheap god-imitations. See how I hate those who hate you, God, see how I loathe all this godless arrogance; I hate it with pure, unadulterated hatred. Your enemies are my enemies! Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong—then guide me on the road to eternal life.

O Lord, you have given us the gift of your Word.

People: May we ever protect and keep it pure. Amen.

WORD OF GOD - 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Paul, the aged and experienced apostle, writes to Timothy who is facing a heavy burden of responsibility in the church at Ephesus. The task of pastoring any church is challenging, especially this one for this young pastor. False doctrine must be erased, public worship safeguarded, and mature responsible leadership developed. In addition to the conduct of the church, Paul talks pointedly about conduct of the minister of a church. Timothy must be on his guard lest his youthfulness become a liability, rather than an asset, to the gospel. He must be careful to avoid false teachers, misinterpreted scripture, greedy motives, selfish ambitions pursuing instead righteousness, godliness, faith, love perseverance, steadfast moral character and the gentleness that befits a man of God.

Allow these words to open your heart, mind and soul for a new way of living.

But you, Timothy, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses. I'm charging you before the life-giving God and before Christ, who took his stand before Pontius Pilate and didn't give an inch: Keep this command to the letter, and don't slack off. Our Master, Jesus Christ, is on his way. He'll show up right on time, his arrival guaranteed by the Blessed and Undisputed Ruler, High King, High God. He's the only one death can't touch, his light so bright no one can get close. He's never been seen by human eyes—human eyes can't take him in! Honor to him, and eternal rule! Oh, yes. Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life. And oh, my dear Timothy, guard the treasure you were given! Guard it with your life. Avoid the talk-show religion and the practiced confusion of the so-called experts. People caught up in a lot of talk can miss the whole point of faith.

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

People: Thanks be to God.