

# Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

Service of Worship • Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023 • 10:55 AM

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## TOWER BELLS

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

Katie Diaz, Pastoral Intern

### WELCOME STATEMENT

Julie Allen

As our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love and accept every person, Duke Memorial United Methodist Church welcomes into our life together those of every age, race, ethnic background, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or socioeconomic status, educational background, and physical or mental ability. In our commitment to the reconciliation of all persons as beloved children of God, we celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all. We invite you to join us in our faith journey toward discipleship in Christ with mutual respect, understanding, and love.

### PRELUDE

Fred Mason Jr., Organist

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Calvin Taylor

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jennifer Ingold Asbill

To our souls made brittle by constant score keeping

**You are the moisture that softens  
and washes the record clean;**

To our hearts exhausted from carrying the burden of being right

**You are the bed that beckons us to rest  
and slip into the dream of being loved;**

To our minds confused by the logic of law

**You are the unreasonable child  
who leads us to dance impishly across the lines;**

For all this we praise You,

**and for the shocking freedom it brings, we thank You.**

—From Sacredese

\*OPENING HYMN

We'll Build a World

David Lohman

**1. We are diff'rent you and I,  
Yet together, fates entwine.  
Now we gather in this space  
Joined in spirit, filled with grace;  
Bring your fullness, I'll bring mine,  
And together we will shine.**

**2. As we labor toward that day,  
Don't let diff'rence fall away.  
Your uniqueness I will see,  
And the same thing, see in me.  
Thus we're valued, known and named,  
Honored, cherished, loved and claimed.**

Refrain:

**Together, we'll build a world  
Where there's room for all to be;  
A world where we'll live our lives  
Liberated, strong and free!  
This glorious future  
Build it now with me.**

Refrain

**3. In this varied universe  
All existence so diverse.  
Filled with wonder, life so queer,  
Steeped in myst'ry, oft unclear.  
Yet together, hand in hand,  
We'll create that Promised Land.**

Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Jennifer Ingold Asbill

**It is never easy for us to confess but deep down inside,  
we know that even when we are:**

**Covered in grace,  
we have trouble being grace-full to others;**

**Entirely forgiven,  
we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us;**

**Set wildly free,  
we find ways to put restrictions on all that we fear.**

**Forgive us, Servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve;  
you pardon us more times than we can count.**

—Adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman

*silence for personal confession*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

*\* Please stand as you are able*

PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Jennifer Ingold Asbill

*Greet one another with signs of reconciliation and love  
The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.***

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S TIME

Laura Tonkin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Katelyn MacDonald

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON | EXODUS 15:1-11, 20-21 NRSV

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Katie Diaz, Pastoral Intern

RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Jennifer Ingold Asbill

*Following each petition:*  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER | UMH 895

OFFERING OURSELVES | WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Thomas Philips

Offering Ourselves



OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

*Give online at [dukememorial.org/give](http://dukememorial.org/give) or in the designated offering boxes.*

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased with God.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.

## SENDING FORTH

\*CLOSING HYMN

UMH (red) 586 | Let My People Seek Their Freedom

EBENEZER

\*BENEDICTION

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata

Fred Mason Jr., Organist

Percy Fletcher



Duke Memorial UMC is a **Lighthouse Congregation** of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, in partnership with the United Methodist Collective and the Office of New Faith Communities.

**Live Stream** This worship service is being live streamed.

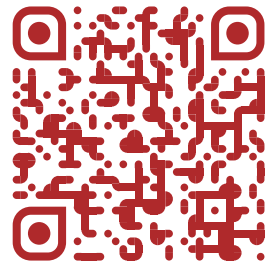
**Love what God is doing in and through Duke Memorial?** Consider investing in our church by making an annual financial commitment.

*Give online at [dukememorial.org/give](https://dukememorial.org/give) or in the designated offering boxes.*

**Fidget baskets** are located on either side of the altar rail and in the narthex. These are offered for children and adults who learn best when their hands or bodies are moving or who can listen more attentively when their other senses are engaged. Feel free to use a fidget or two at any point during worship and then return them to the basket at the end of service. Additionally, there is **“Pray Ground”** space in front of the pews on the right side of the sanctuary. This is space in the sanctuary for our worshippers of all ages and stages. Feel free to let your child play in this space as they participate in worship.

**New? Tell Us More** | We value building relationships across lines of difference, shared hobbies, passions, talents, and seasons of life. We hope to connect with you and one another inside and outside the church building. We encourage you to take time to fill out the connect card, explore our Spiritual Formation groups, ministries for children and youth, and our ministries designed to connect the church to the world through service.

*scan code or visit [dukememorial.org/here](https://dukememorial.org/here)*



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