

August 23, 2026 – 10:30A
13th Sunday After Pentecost / AC Reflection Sunday

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude – Instrumental

A Word of Greeting/Centering Words

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Whether you come this morning with hearts full of joy, hearts carrying burdens, or simply wondering what God may have for you today, you are welcome in this place.

The Scriptures remind us that God is faithful even when circumstances are frightening and uncertain. In Exodus, courageous women protect life in the midst of oppression.

Psalm 124 reminds us that our help is in the name of the Lord. Paul calls us to offer our whole selves to God as living sacrifices. And Jesus asks his disciples a question that still reaches us today: "Who do you say that I am?" So let us quiet our hearts and turn our attention toward God. Let us leave behind, for a moment, the worries of the week, the things we cannot control, and the voices that compete for our attention.

Let us remember:

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Christ is among us.

God's Spirit is within us. And we have been called together for worship. Come, let us worship the God who is faithful, who gives us courage, and who calls us to become the people Christ has created us to be.

Opening Hymn – *UMH #77 How Great Thou Art vs. 1, 2, 4*

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader, **P: People**)

[Gilbert Vinluan]

Leader: Come, people of God! Come and remember the One who has always been faithful.

People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: When fear surrounds us, God is our refuge. When the way is uncertain, God is our guide.

People: We will trust in the Lord, for God has not abandoned us.

Leader: Jesus asks us today, "Who do you say that I am?"

People: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Leader: We are many members, yet we are one body in Christ. Each of us has gifts to offer and a part to play.

People: We offer ourselves to God as living sacrifices, ready to serve in love.

Leader: Then let us worship with grateful hearts, courageous spirits, and open hands.

People: Let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

[Gilbert Vinluan]

A Message to the Children (In Us All)

[Gilbert Vinluan]

Gracious and faithful God, We come before you this morning grateful that you have gathered us together as your people. When the world feels uncertain, remind us that our help is in you. When fear tells us to remain silent, give us the courage of the women in Exodus who protected life and acted with wisdom and faithfulness. When we feel overwhelmed by circumstances, remind us that you are still at work, often in ways we cannot yet see. Lord Jesus Christ, you ask each of us, “Who do you say that I am?” Open our hearts so that we may know you more deeply—not only as the one we proclaim with our lips, but as the Lord who shapes our lives, our relationships, our choices, and our service. Holy Spirit, unite us as one body. Help us recognize that each person has a gift, a calling, and a place in the ministry of Christ. Receive our worship today. Transform our minds, renew our spirits, and make us more like Christ. May everything we say, sing, pray, and do bring glory to you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word of God for the People of God

Congregational Hymn – UMH #140 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 138

[Gilbert Vinluan]

I give thanks to you with all my heart, LORD.^[a]

I sing your praise before all other gods.

² I bow toward your holy temple

and thank your name

for your loyal love and faithfulness

because you have made your name and word

greater than everything else.^[b]

³ On the day I cried out, you answered me.

You encouraged me with inner strength.^[c]

⁴ Let all the earth's rulers give thanks to you, LORD,

when they hear what you say.

⁵ Let them sing about the LORD's ways

because the LORD's glory is so great!

⁶ Even though the LORD is high,

he can still see the lowly,

but God keeps his distance from the arrogant.

⁷ Whenever I am in deep trouble,

you make me live again;

you send your power against my enemies' wrath;

you save me with your strong hand.

⁸ The LORD will do all this for my sake.

Your faithful love lasts forever, LORD!
Don't let go of what your hands
have made.

L: The word of God for all People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Special Music – Zion

Sermon – “Your Love Endures Forever”

[Rev. Allison Mark]

Pastoral Prayer – Lord's Prayer

[Rev. Allison Mark]

We Respond to God's Grace

Offering our Gifts

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Offertory – Instrumental

Doxology – Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, UMH#95

Prayer of Dedication

[Gilbert Vinluan]

Faithful and generous God, Everything we have comes from you—our lives, our gifts, our resources, our opportunities, and our very breath. Today we do not merely bring our offerings; we offer ourselves. Receive these gifts and use them for the work of your kingdom. May they bring hope where there is despair, compassion where there is suffering, justice where there is oppression, and welcome where people feel forgotten. And receive us, Lord, as living sacrifices. Use our hands to serve. Use our voices to speak words of grace and truth. Use our gifts to strengthen your church. Use our resources to bless our neighbors. Use our lives to reveal the love of Christ. Make us one body, serving with humility and joy. Where there is fear, make us courageous. Where there is division, make us instruments of unity. Where there is need, make us ready to respond. As we go from this place, may our worship continue through the lives we live and the love we share. We dedicate these gifts, and we dedicate ourselves to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, we pray. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Closing Hymn – UMH #378 Amazing Grace, vs. 1, 5, 6

Commission and Blessings

[Rev. Allison Mark]

Passing of the Peace – Postlude