

17th Sunday after Pentecost – September 20, 2026 – 10:30A
Grandparents Day

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude – Instrumental

A Word of Greeting/Centering Words

[Minister 'Ainise 'Isama'u]

Centering Words:

Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Opening Hymn – W&S #3002 Blessed Be Your Name vs 1,2

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

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

[Miki Hayashida]

Leader: In their wilderness wandering, the Israelites grumbled. The Lord lighted their way and provided nourishment.

People: In our life journeys, we will give thanks for the providence of the Holy One.

Leader: In their daily work, the laborers in the field grumbled with resentment over gracious giving.

People: In our daily lives, we will rejoice at generosity shown to others.

Leader: As we seek to live our lives by the example of Christ, may we delight in God's grace.

People: We will offer caring presence and abundant generosity. We will even endeavor to give up our grumbling.

Opening Prayer

[Miki Hayashida]

Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the many ways we see your abiding presence throughout scripture and within our own lives. You hear not only our praise but also our complaints. Teach us to hear our own grumbling as a signifier to redirect our thoughts and lives to gratitude and generosity. In hearing our own complaints, may we look to Christ Jesus for examples of grace and may we follow your Holy Spirit to offer presence to one another, as we walk in faith together. Amen.

A Message to the Children (In Us All)

[Minister 'Ainise 'Isama'u]

The Word of God for all People

*Congregational Hymn – W&S #3040 You Are My All in All vs 1, 2 (refrain is repeated twice each verse)

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

[Miki Hayashida]

The Laborers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

L: The word of God for all People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Special Music: ***Every Praise*** by Hezekiah Walker

Faith Choir and Band

Sermon – "Grace Isn't Fair—and Thank God for That"

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Pastoral Prayer – Lord's Prayer

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

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

[Miki Hayashida]

We offer these gifts, O God, in gratitude for your provision in our lives. We offer tangible gifts of money, where we are able, and tangible gifts of our time, our prayers, our service, and our witness to your abundant grace. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Closing Hymn - W&S #3003 How Great is Our God vs 1,2 (repeat refrain, stop words at 2nd ending meas. 26)

Commission and Blessings

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Passing of the Peace – Postlude