



June 16, 2024 – Livestream  
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*Fugue on "St. Anne"*

J. S. Bach/H. Hopson

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord answers you in the day of trouble!

**People: The name of the God of Jacob protects us!**

Leader: May God send you help from the sanctuary,

**People: and give us support from Zion.**

Leader: May God remember all your offerings,  
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.

**People: May we shout for joy over God's victory,  
and raise our banners in the name of our God.**

\*OPENING HYMN #698

*God of the Ages*

***God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.***

***Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.***

***From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
thy true religion in our hearts increase;  
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.***

***Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;  
lead us from night to never-ending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.***

OPENING PRAYER

**God, Sower of Grace, be at work among us  
that we may flourish in faithfulness  
and bear the fruit of Christ's love in our lives.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #811

Psalm 92

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**People: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,**

Leader: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**People: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

Leader: How great are your works, O Lord!  
Your thoughts are very deep!

**People: The dull ones cannot know,  
the foolish cannot understand this:**

Leader: though the wicked sprout like grass  
and all evildoers flourish,  
they are doomed to destruction for ever,  
but you, O Lord, art on high for ever.

**People: For your enemies, O Lord,  
for your enemies shall perish;  
all evildoers shall be scattered.**

Leader: But you hast exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;  
you have poured over me fresh oil.

**People: My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies,  
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.**

Leader: The righteous flourish like the palm tree,  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**People: They are planted in the house of the Lord,  
they flourish in the courts of our God.**

Leader: They still bring forth fruit in old age,  
they are ever full of sap and green,  
to show that the Lord is upright;

**People: The Lord is my rock, in whom there is no unrighteousness.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

<sup>22</sup> Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup> On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup> All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #2123

*Loving Spirit*

***Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.***

***Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.***

***Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.***

***Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:  
In your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.***

***Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Darren Cushman Wood

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE #349

*Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Umoja Tunaimba*

V. Johnson

***Umoja tunaimba! United we sing! We stand as one in unity!  
We lift our voices and we join our hearts singing songs of justice and peace.  
We stand together as the children of God bringing hope to humanity. Refrain  
Imba kwa amani! Imba kwa furaha! Imba kwa upendo! Imba!  
We will sing for peace! We will sing for joy! We will sing for love! We will sing!  
Refrain***

\*DOXOLOGY #94

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4: 26-34

<sup>26</sup> He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

<sup>30</sup> He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Life Force*

Sunil Kotian

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #707

*Hymn of Promise*

***In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

FAREWELL TO PASTOR SUNIL

Pastor Sunil:

I thank you,  
the members and friends of North United Methodist Church,  
for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you.  
I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.  
I pray to God to complete and make whole that which I have done.  
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned from you.

**People: We receive your thankfulness and offer our peace.**

**We are grateful for your time among us,  
your service to us, and your leadership of us.**

**Your influence on our faith will not leave us with your departure.**

Pastor Sunil:

I accept your gratitude and acceptance,  
trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.  
I release you from turning to me and depending on me.  
I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you.

Pastor Darren:

Let us pray. Eternal God,  
whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting,  
we give you thanks for cherished memories  
and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions.  
Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Go Ye Now in Peace*

J. Eilers

Go ye now in peace, and know that the love of God will guide you. Feel his presence here beside you showing you the way. In your time of trouble, when hurt and despair are there to grieve you, know that the Lord will never leave you. He will bring you courage. Know that the God who sent His Son to die that you might live will never leave you lost and alone in His beloved world. Go ye now in peace.

POSTLUDE

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

arr. J. Pethel

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of Walter N. Shaw - Husband of Ruth Shaw; Father of Deborah Shaw-Davison, Lydia R. Shaw, Susan Shaw-Harrison; Grandfather of 10 and Great-Grandfather of 13.*

Upcoming Events:

Today, Pastor Sunil's last Sunday at North  
Reception in the Gathering Center at 9:30am  
Luncheon in Fellowship Hall at noon

June 15 – 22, Summer Mission Trip to Oklahoma City

July 7 – 12, Camp at Pine Creek

Tuesdays, July 2-30, 6-7:30pm

"Hearing and Doing" Book of James Study with Emily Willson  
at Guggman Haus Brewing Co.

Farmers Market Dates

July 11, July 18, Aug. 1, Aug. 15, Sept. 5, and Sept. 19, 4:00 — 6:00 pm

July 14, Indianapolis Indians Game, Victory Field, 1:30pm

July 28- Backpack Blessing during both services

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



This week's worship  
leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood

*Senior Pastor*

Sunil Kotian

*Pastor of Mission & Outreach*

Amy Sell

*Minister of Discipleship &  
Formation*

Emily Willson

*Pastoral Intern*

James Horton, Allen McCormack

& John Hague

*Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon

*Music Director*

Heather Hinton

*Organist*