



## September 29, 2024 – Livestream Health and Healing Sunday

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY

Fall Festival

Carol Tiller- Luchtman

\*PASSING THE PEACE

PRELUDE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. J. Raney

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Brandon Wallace

Leader: To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock,

**People: do not turn a deaf ear to me.**

Leader: Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,

**People: as I lift up my hands toward your holy sanctuary.**

Leader: The Lord is our strength and the saving refuge of the anointed.

**People: O save us for we are your people and bless us for we are your heritage;  
be our shepherd and carry us forever.**

\*OPENING HYMN #529

*How Firm a Foundation*

***How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?***

***"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.***

***"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.***

***"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.***

***"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."***

CAROLERS' ANTHEM

*A Joyful Heart*  
Proverbs 17:22

F. Hernandez  
James Caraher, piano;  
Denise Page Caraher, director

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brandon Wallace

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:27-31

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*If You Search with All Your Heart*

C. Courtney

When you seek Me, you shall find Me if you search with all your heart.

For I know the plans I have for you: plans of welfare, not of evil.

For I know the plans I have for you: plans of hope and a future.

I will bring you out of bondage to the land I have prepared.

I will bring you out of bondage, I will bring you home to Me.

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*St. Paul's Greatest Hits No. 3: Persist Graciously*

Darren Cushman Wood

\*HYMN #354

*I Surrender All*

v. 1-3

***All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give;***

***I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.***

***Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

***All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet I bow,  
worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]***

***All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine;  
let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine. [Refrain]***

THE INVITATION

James 5:14-16

Brandon Wallace

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**People: Gracious God,**

**our sins are too heavy to carry,**

**too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,**

**what our hearts can no longer hear,**

**and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change;**

**open to us a future in which we can be changed;**

**and grant us grace to grow more and more  
in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, our Hope and Life. Amen.**

[Silence]

Leader: The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven.  
May the God of mercy,  
who forgives you all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
make you whole.

**People: Amen.**

HYMN OF DEDICATION #354

*I Surrender All*

v. 4

***All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;  
fill me with thy love and power; let thy blessing fall on me.  
I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Darren Cushman Wood

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Where Can I Go?*

M. Ijames

*Today's Offertory Anthem is sung in honor of Virginia Melin's 99th birthday.*  
Where can I go from You? O Lord, You've searched and known my ways; You trace my paths,  
You count my days. If I ascend unto the heaven's, You are there.  
Even before my voice is heard, You read each thought, You know each word,  
and surely darkness cannot hide me, You are there.  
Where can I go, O Lord from You? If I should flee, You would pursue.  
Though I should take the wings of morning, I am known within the womb You formed my frame.  
You saw my face, You knew my name. Your hands have woven me together. I am known.  
All-knowing Lord, You test my heart; You search out every inward part. Where can I go, except to You,  
Lord, You alone. Where can I go? You are there.

\*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!***

LITANY OF INTERCESSION

Darren Cushman Wood

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Leader: Let us pray for the sick and suffering,  
for their caregivers, families, and friends:  
**People: Strong and Gentle God,  
you make right our disordered lives,  
you restore our health,  
and you revive our hope.**

**Send your Spirit to those we lift up to you this day.**

Leader: For all whose bodies are in pain,  
for all who must endure procedures,  
for all who face surgery,  
Faithful God, surround them with your mercy.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, and bring your mercy.**

Leader: For all whose minds are troubled,  
for all whose hearts are disturbed,  
for all who mourn, Gentle God,  
restore them with your peace.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, and give your peace.**

Leader: For all who shoulder the burden of caring for others,  
for all who comfort the sick and dying,  
for all who practice the healing arts, Mighty God,  
fill them with your strength.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, and share your strength.**

Leader: Into your hands, O God,  
we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ,  
the Great Physician.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, and hear our prayers. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

THANKSGIVING OVER THE OIL

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL

*(As the congregation sings, you are invited to kneel in prayer at the altar  
for the laying on of hands and/or anointing with oil.)*

#314

*In the Garden*

***I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses,  
and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.***

***Refrain: And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own;  
and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.***

***He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing. (Refrain)***

***I'd stay in the garden with him though the night around me be falling,  
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe his voice to me is calling. (Refrain)***

#375

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

***Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.***

***Some times I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)***

***Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you look for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. (Refrain)***

***If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,  
just tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all. (Refrain)***

#526 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
***What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.***

***Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.***

***Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*CLOSING HYMN #354

*I Surrender All*

v. 5

***All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame.  
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to his name!  
I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

\*THE BLESSING

Leader: May the presence of God be revealed to you.

**People: At our worst, we hear God say, "My grace is sufficient for you."**

Leader: May the power of Christ dwell in you.

**People: In our weakness, we hear God say, "My grace is sufficient for you."**

Leader: May the peace of the Spirit make you whole.

**People: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. J. Raney

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in celebration of the first birthday of Anthony Paul Principe on August 27 and in thanksgiving for the first anniversary of his successful open heart surgery on October 5 by his grandparents Kevin and Natalie Dempsey.*

### Upcoming Events:

Accessible DEI and Belonging:  
Vital Aspects of Congregation and Community,  
September 29, 4:00-5:30pm

Family Movie Night  
October 4, 5:30 – 8:00pm

Fall Festival with hymn sing and chili cook-off  
October 6, 5:30-7:30pm

Sophia Sunday School Class new study, “Thrive” by Jennifer Cowart

Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy Bible Study  
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Blessing of the Animals  
October 13, 5:00pm

### This week’s worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood  
*Senior Pastor*

Brandon Wallace  
*Minister of Christian Education*

Rev. Joan Barclay, Pastor of  
Visitation

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell

Rev. Phil Dorrell  
*Assisting*

John Hague, Allen McCormack

James Horton & Eric Russell

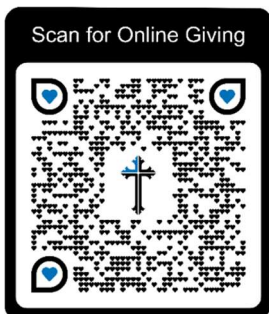
*Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon

*Music Director*

Heather Hinton

*Organist*



You can give online to the Fall Mission Offering through September.  
The offering supports the MLK Center's children and youth programming.

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