

Worship Leader Guide

DATE: Sunday, August 10, 2025, 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: "A Heart of Wisdom: Wise Words from the Hebrew Bible"

Preacher: Pastor Amy

Liturgist: Stacy C

Accompanist: Leigh Ann C

Greeters/Ushers:

Media Technicians: Tammy M

Nursery Attendant: Shirley C

[9:55 AM]

PRELUDE Be Joyful in the Lord by Marc Jordan

[10:00 AM]

ANNOUNCEMENTS - August Birthdays celebrated in Fireside Room after service (see sheet)

WELCOME & WORDS OF GRACE

Amy: The Lord be with you!

I am pastor Amy, and I use she/her pronouns, and I am glad that you are starting this Sunday morning here at Grace UMC. It is a joy to welcome you today whether you are here in our sanctuary today or joining us on livestream. We know we have a wonderful, diverse group of folks that come to worship with us online.

Friends, no matter where you come from today, or where you go at the close of this service, no matter what you believe or doubt, no matter what you feel or don't feel today, no matter your immigration status, no matter whom you love, you're welcome to come just as you are to be met by our God who knows you by name and who loves you and who wants to have an ever closer relationship with you. You are welcome here.

Let's pray: Redeeming One, where we have learned to push our emotions down for our safety or for the comfort of others, create with us safe places for sorrow and anger to land. Where we have learned to stifle our childlike playfulness, create with us welcoming places to dance with delight. For in you, all emotions are safe to feel and safe to express. Amen.

Liturgist: Please stand as you are able and comfortable and join me in the Call to Worship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Mighty One calls to us—

not with empty ritual, but with holy fire.

God speaks from the rising of the sun to its setting,

summoning a people to truth and justice.

Many: We come, not with hollow offerings,

but with hearts ready to be changed.

One: Wash yourselves, says the Lord.

Put away the evil of injustice.

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Defend the vulnerable.

Many: We come, not to perform religion,

but to practice mercy.

One: Let the heavens declare God's righteousness,

and let the earth tremble at God's voice.

**Many: We come—awed, humbled, and ready—
to worship the God who desires lives of love.**

Liturgist: Let's lift our voices together in our opening hymn from the black hymnal page 2236, Gather Us In.

***OPENING HYMN:** TFWS #2236 Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry.
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

You may be seated.

Let us pray:

God of blazing truth and deep mercy,
strip away our pretense.

Let your Word burn through our defenses
and illuminate what is real,
what is just,
what is needed.
Speak through the ancient fire,
and awaken us to your call—
not just to listen,
but to live.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Liturgist: Today's first lesson comes from Psalm 50.

From the rising of the sun to where it sets,
God, the Lord God, speaks,
calling out to the earth.

² From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines brightly.

³ Our God is coming;
he won't keep quiet.

A devouring fire is before him;
a storm rages all around him.

⁴ God calls out to the skies above
and to the earth in order to judge his people:

⁵ "Bring my faithful to me,
those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

⁶ The skies proclaim his righteousness
because God himself is the judge. *Selah*

⁷ "Listen, my people, I will now speak;
Israel, I will now testify against you.
I am God—your God!

⁸ I'm not punishing you for your sacrifices
or for your entirely burned offerings,
which are always before me.

So consider this carefully, all you who forget God,
or I'll rip you to pieces with no one to deliver you:

²³ The one who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving is the one who honors me.
And it is to the one who charts the correct path that I will show divine salvation."

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

JOY & CONCERNS

Amy: As we make our way back to our seats, we will move into a time of prayer. Are there joys and concerns that you would like to lift, so that we can be in prayer and praise with each other today and in this coming week?

PRAYER HYMN W&S #3120 Amazing Abundance

Amazing abundance poured out on this land,
the mark of your gracious and generous hand.
Your blessing is richest on those who will give
with joy and thanksgiving so others may live.

A holy compassion is born through the cries
when tragedy threatens and heroes arise.
God's spirit is present and felt everywhere
that hands reach through darkness and battle despair.

We pray for communion, all nations so strong
that difference is honored and all might belong.
A tapestry woven by myriad hands,
a banner of freedom the bright braided strands.

Refrain:
Praise God for the nations,
O help us to see
the whole world is yours, Lord,
and yearns to be free.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy:

Holy One,
You who thunder from Zion,
whose voice burns brighter than the sun on scorched earth,
we hear your summons—not to rituals alone,
but to a life of mercy, courage, and repair.
And so we pray, Shine your justice like lightning across the sky.
Burn away what is false in us. Make us bold to love.

God of fire and flood, we lift before you the groaning of creation:
oceans choked with plastic, forests sacrificed to greed, skies thick with smoke.
Forgive us for thinking dominion meant domination.
Teach us to live gently on this sacred ground.
Make us bold to love.

God of the margins, we remember those trampled underfoot:
the family evicted, the refugee turned away, the child in a cage, the elder left in the heat.
Let our hands not be lifted in worship if they are closed to our neighbors.
Make us bold to love.

God of righteous anger and tender mercy, we confess that we have made offerings
without offering ourselves.
We have sung songs of peace while benefiting from systems of violence.
You do not delight in our hollow praise. You ask us to wash, to rise, to act.
Make us bold to love.

God of prophets and poets, revive your Church—not with empty ritual,
but with living faith that feeds the hungry, visits the imprisoned, uplifts the oppressed,

and sets captives free.

Let us not only worship on Sunday, but live our liturgy Monday through Saturday.

Make us bold to love.

God who sees beyond our pretense, draw near to those crying out in pain:

to Gaza and Ukraine, to borderlands and battered towns,

to hospitals full and homes grown cold.

Bring peace rooted in justice, and hope grounded in action.

Make us bold to love.

And when the work is hard, and the night is long,

remind us that you have not abandoned us—

that you are still speaking, still calling, still creating a people after your own heart.

Make us bold to love. We pray in the name of Jesus our bold example of love:

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Amy:

Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the parentless;

plead the case of the bereaved.

These ancient words from Isaiah remain a powerful call to action. Let us gather our shared resources this day, that we might take up the cause of one another.

SPECIAL MUSIC - Jeremy Jack

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Let's pray: Mysterious Love, may our offerings flow, uninhibited, towards justice. May the bereaved be consoled, the lonely be accompanied, and those who are downtrodden by systems of cruelty be defended. Amen.

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 (CEB)

Amy: Today's second lesson comes to us from the prophet Isaiah.

The vision about Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw in the days of Judah's kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Hear the Lord's word, you leaders of Sodom.

Listen to our God's teaching,
people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ What should I think about all your sacrifices?
says the Lord.

I'm fed up with entirely burned offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts.

I don't want the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats.

¹² When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from you,
this trampling of my temple's courts?

¹³ Stop bringing worthless offerings.
Your incense repulses me.

New moon, sabbath, and the calling of an assembly—
I can't stand wickedness with celebration!

¹⁴ I hate your new moons and your festivals.
They've become a burden that I'm tired of bearing.

¹⁵ When you extend your hands,
I'll hide my eyes from you.

Even when you pray for a long time,
I won't listen.

Your hands are stained with blood.

¹⁶ Wash! Be clean!

Remove your ugly deeds from my sight.
Put an end to such evil;

¹⁷ learn to do good.

Seek justice:

help the oppressed;^[b]
defend the orphan;
plead for the widow.

¹⁸ Come now, and let's settle this,
says the Lord.

Though your sins are like scarlet,
they will be white as snow.

If they are red as crimson,
they will become like wool.

¹⁹ If you agree and obey,
you will eat the best food of the land.

²⁰ But if you refuse and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword.

The Lord has said this.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "A Heart of Wisdom: Wise Words from the Hebrew Bible"
Week 4: Washed, Not Just Woke

***CLOSING HYMN** UMH #577 God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
on Thy people pour Thy pow'r;
crown Thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure they children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul,
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving thee whom we adore,
Serving thee whom we adore.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Go forth in the name of
the Creator, who calls you inherently beloved;
the Sustainer, who breaks bread into enough;
and the Redeemer, who labors with us towards liberation.

POSTLUDE Sing Forth to the Lord by David Paxton

Leigh Ann Corcoran, Minister of Music