

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Prelude: Mary Kate Barnes

Introit: Take Up Thy Cross - Chancel Chorus

Welcome - Pastor Elsie Quintanilla

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: We gather as a community of compassion and hope.

All: Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly.

Pastor: By this caring and sharing, we will be known as followers of Jesus.

All: By our example, others may be led to lives of peace.

Pastor: Lord, open our hearts and minds this day to your word.

All: Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** We Are the Church UMH #558

***Greet one another with the Peace of Christ**

Joy & Concerns

Congregational Prayer: (Unison)

Lord, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our trust in your eternal love. Enable us to be more effective in our witness to that love by word and deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service. These things we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Silent Prayer/Pastoral Prayer

Children's Time: Carole Ann Robertson

Special Music: "Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You" by Althouse - Chancel Chorus

***Scripture Reading:** Matthew 16:21-28

***Hymn of Preparation:** Where He Leads Me UMH #338 verse 1 and refrain.

Message: Fan or follower? Pastor Elsie

Offering - Mary Kate Barnes

***Doxology**

***Offering Prayer (Romans 12)**

God of new beginnings, receive the gifts of our hands, that hospitality might be extended to those in need. Bless today's offering, that the hungry may be fed and the thirsty may be satisfied. May these gifts seal our commitment to do what is just and honorable in your sight. Amen.

Communion with The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** I Have Decided to Follow Jesus TFWS # 2129

***Benediction Response:** "Walk with Me" (#2242, Refrain 1st Unison then again Parts) - Chancel Chorus

Postlude