



*The People of God in Worship*  
*September 16, 2018*  
*Eleven O'Clock in the Morning*  
*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**THE GREETING**

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kears

To our Guests, Members, and Friends: In the pew rack you will find a small brochure to give us the opportunity to get to know you and serve you better. Fill in where appropriate, and place it in the collection plate. Welcome and thank you!

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kears

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you!  
Reply: **And also with you!**

**THREE CHIMES**

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.

**THE PRELUDE**

Please consider the prelude as an invitation to quietly, reverently prepare yourself for worship.

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN No. 184**

*Thy Word*

**\*INVOCATION AND THE GLORIA PATRI**

The Hon. Ed Burnette and The Community

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

## THE RESPONSIVE READING

- Reader 1: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path; (Psalm 119:105)
- Reader 2: **Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord. (Psalm 1:1-2)**
- People: I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, and all my soul and all my strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5)**
- Reader 1: I will love my neighbor as I love myself. (Matthew 22:39)
- Reader 2: **I will not oppress the outsider in my community, but will treat them as if they were born here. (Leviticus 19:33)**
- People: I will meditate on the word of God night and day, and be careful to do what it asks of me. (Joshua 1:8)**
- Reader 1: I will seek peace. (249 instances in the NIV English version, including Matthew 5:9)
- Reader 2: **I will seek to do justice to all your people. (over 130 instances including Micah 6:8)**
- People: I will believe, to the best of my ability, in the hope, the peace, the joy, the life, and the love offered to me by the God of all creation. (John 3:16)**
- All: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

## THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 6:4-15

The Hon. Ed Burnette

Leader: A word from God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## THE SECOND READING

Acts 8:26-40

The Hon. Ed Burnette

Leader: A word from God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## THE ANTHEM

*On Eagle's Wings*

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

## THE MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

*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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## \*THE OFFERTORY HYMN No. 210

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

## THE GIFTS

\*Offertory Moment and Prayer

The Hon. Ed Burnette

Offertory

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

David A. White

\*Doxology - No. 815

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

## THE MESSAGE

*Frona's Bible*

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

## THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to the minister after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a profession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

\*HYMN No. 184 (refrain only)

*Thy Word*

\*CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kears

\*THE BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kears

\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

*Christ, Now Go Before Us*

\*THE POSTLUDE

- 
- \* The ushers will seat those waiting.
  - \* Those who are able will please stand.
  - \* Hearing aids are available from the ushers.

Copies of last week's sermon and the prayer list are in the narthex.

***The beautiful flowers in the worship room are given by Martha Dixon Kears  
in honor of the strong, Baptist women in her family: Frona Wheeler Williams,  
Mary Sue Conner Dixon, and Barbara Williams Dixon.***

### Offertory Emphasis

In your pew rack is a Bible. On the podium, there is a big Bible. This Bible is written in your language, translated carefully by many thousands of people over the millennia, copied by many thousands of hands, passed down, cherished, fought for, died for, interpreted, and re-interpreted, so that you can hold it in your hand today and read it for yourself. Today we give in gratitude for all those who have dedicated their lives to making sure the scripture was accessible to all of us, whose work, whose passion, whose commitment, and whose sacrifice meant that we could read freely from those words together today. We give in their honor, and to continue to the work of getting these vital words into the hands of every person who asks to receive them.

Please join me in Prayer:

*Lord, we thank you for the many people throughout history, and living today, whose work ensures that each of us can have access to a copy of scripture, written in a language that we can understand. We thank you for their strength, their courage, and their determination, and ask that you would give us that same boldness, that same fervor, in making sure we carry your word in our hearts and out into the world. Amen.*