

Word
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE
Psalm 103: 1-13
1Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.
2Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God’s benefits—
3who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
4who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
5who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.
6O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
7You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
8Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
9you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
10You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
11For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
12As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
13As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S MOMENT
(After Children’s Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children’s Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON ~ Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

*HYMN #189 Fairest Lord Jesus ST. ELIZABETH

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)

Thanksgiving
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY
Gloria Keith Christopher
Gloria! Gloria Patri! Sing to the Lord, a joyful song, sound forth His
praises all day long; with every voice, a song of praise, a hymn of
thanks to Him we raise!

*DOXOLOGY #95 OLD 100TH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
See Musical Setting E pp. 25A-C in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.
[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD’S PRAYER (spoken)

RECEIVING COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION
Fraction Anthem
Agnus Dei Gerald R. Near
Jesus Lamb of God have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have
mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world give us your peace.

I Come With Joy, Hymn #617 Charles H. Webb

Meditation on ‘St. Elizabeth’ Phillip Keveren

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #701 When We All Get to Heaven HEAVEN

*BENEDICTION AND CLOSING PRAYER
**Holy Spirit, quiet our hearts
to hear Your voice.**
Hold us in Your love,
so that all are welcomed and valued.
Guide our discernment
and shape our plans with compassion and courage.
Light a fire within us
that renews and unites our church for joyful service.
Send us out in the light of Christ
to follow faithfully wherever You lead. Amen.

*POSTLUDE
Concluding Voluntary Myles B. Foster

Leading Today’s Worship Service:
Preaching: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling
Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor
Liturgist: Kay Summers
Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas
Children’s Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the Gathering Space.

Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the
attendance card located in the pew rack.



Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For Rose W. who is hospitalized with a serious infection. She is likely to need some weeks in rehab after she is released from the hospital. Rose is a friend of Cindy Huber.
~For Pam K. who is undergoing radiation therapy for cancer. Pam is a friend of Cindy Huber.
~For Rebekah Solem, who is recovering from hip surgery.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness:

Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Jason Micheli, Sally, Christine, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Dena, Mary Hays, Thomas Greving, Sue Mink, Chi Bahn, Michael Milano, Carole Shakkour, Barb H., Vivian, Chris, Fran T., Bonnie Hahn, Donald Laughlin, Susan Kiser, Brian, Jill Downing, Sherrie.

Prayers for the World:

~For the children of Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and Iran who are dying from wars in their countries.
~For peace between Russia and Ukraine as the war moves into its 5th year.
~For peace between the US and Iran.
~For peace and an end to wars around the world.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website mountolivetumc.com/prayers or use the back of the attendance card.

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Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk.*

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

Announcements

Have a Mount Olivet Name Tag?

Time to dust it off and wear it Sunday! Don't have one yet or misplaced yours? Just make a request on the attendance card (indicate any desired pronouns). We look forward to greeting you by name!

Third Grade Bibles

If you are entering 3rd grade, Mount Olivet would love to give you a Bible with your name embossed on it! We will present them at both services on October 18. Please contact Linnea Carlson with any questions at Lcarlson@mtolivet-umc.org.

Announcements (continued)

Kid's Sunday School Returns

Kid's Sunday School resumes on Sunday, **September 20** from 10:15 am - 11:15 am, for ages 3 through 5th grade. Please register for classes on our website. The nursery is also available during this time. Contact Linnea Carlson at Lcarlson@mtolivet-umc.org with any questions or to volunteer.

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School will resume on Sunday, **September 20** at 10:15 am in the Youth Area.

Youth Group

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, **September 20** from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Youth Area. All rising 6th – 12 graders and parents are invited for fellowship, dinner and to complete registration forms. Contact Evan Hannah at ehannah@mtolivet-umc.org with any questions.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Adults in all stages of life gather on Sunday mornings and throughout the week to grow in their faith and build relationships through groups, dinners, music, and more. Everyone is welcome, and we do mean everyone. To see a list of classes, go to the link on our website at **www.mountolivetumc.com/groups/adult-sunday-school** and reach out to the listed contact, or just show up on Sunday morning.

Spirit and Nature Walk

Join our Spirit and Nature walk group on Sunday, September 27, 2 PM at Scott's Run Park in McLean. Please contact Jaydee Hanson to register, 703-231-5956.

Walk to End Hunger ... in the Arlington CROP Hunger Walk. Save the date. Join the Mount Olivet Team. Support a Walker. Saturday morning, October 17. Funds raised support AFAC and global food programs. More details to follow.

An Invitation to Prayer and Visioning

It is time to refresh our strategic plan which was completed in 2017. We begin our next season together with a time of dreaming, visioning, and planning that will allow us all to be proactive rather than reactive. And to be all God is calling us to be. We are beginning this process not with our own opinions and ideas and hopes, but by listening to God. We will begin with prayer. We are inviting all of the congregation to find a time each day to pray the prayer that you'll find at the end of today's bulletin. This is a prayer that we have crafted inviting us to listen, to center down, to welcome God's Spirit.

Find additional announcements and more on our website mountolivetumc.com or subscribe to our weekly e-news.



MOUNT
OLIVET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 13, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet. We are thinking about Psalm 103: the justice, mercy, and compassion of God. The works of God are a throughline from Moses and the Exodus to the ways that God is at work in our lives and in our world today.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Variations on Nimrod Elgar

Fairest Lord Jesus Lloyd Larson

Introit

O Taste and See Ralph Vaughan Williams
O taste and see how gracious the Lord is, blessed is the man who trusteth in him. (Ps. 34:8)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come!

Come praise the eternal God!

**Let all that is within us—
body, emotions, mind, and will—
praise God's holy name!**

Despite our failures, He forgives and releases us.

More than any doctor, He heals our diseases.

**When we are famished and weak,
He fills us with good and beautiful things,
satisfying our needs, and restoring our strength.**

So come!

Come, praise the eternal God!

Sing songs from a grateful heart,
and remember all that He has done for us.

*HYMN #660 God is Here ABBOTT'S LEIGH

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.