
SERVICE NOTES

UMH: *United Methodist Hymnal*, TFWS: *The Faith We Sing*, Girdwood Chapel's CCLI Basic #: 11038417, CCLI Streaming License #: CSPL155734, CEB: *Common English Bible*.

This week's worship helpers—Greeter: Ann, Tech Helper: Kevin, Liturgist: Terry, Preacher: Pastor Hyunghee Kim

Next Week's Worship Helpers Sign-up

- Greeter: Alice
- Tech Helper: Lynné
- Liturgist: Barbara

Announcements:

- **Walk, Talk, Pray:** every Thursday, 10am at our parking lot
- **Food Pantry:** First Sundays 2-4p.m., 2nd&4th Wednesday 4-6p.m.
- **Daily Bible Reading** sheets are available on the right-side table at the church entrance.
- Our Fall Sermon Series (Sep. 21–Nov. 16) will follow a book, *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows*. If you'd like to purchase a copy, please see Wendy. Wendy has three copies available—brand new and used.



*Our Church Mission:
Love God,
Love Others, and
Change the World!*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

** Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Welcome & Announcements (*back of bulletin*)

*Call to worship

One: Come, beloved community—
gathered not because we are the same,
but because God's grace draws us near.

Many: We come as we are—

with our stories, our cultures, our questions, our hopes.

One: Here, difference is not erased but embraced.

Here, welcome does not come with conditions.

**Many: Because in Christ, there is no “us” and “them”—
only the wideness of grace,
and the Spirit that meets us before we arrive.**

**All: Let us worship the God who breaks barriers,
who sets a longer table,
and who calls us all beloved.**

*Opening hymn “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”
lyrics on the screen

Opening prayer

All: Dear God,

**You are the One who gathers the scattered,
the One who welcomes before we even know how to arrive.
We thank You for a gospel that crosses every line and lifts
every voice.**

(continued on next page)

As we worship today, open our hearts to your radical hospitality. Unclench our hands where we've held too tightly to control, and free our vision where we've only seen one way to be faithful.

Make us into a community of deep welcome, not only with our words, but with our lives.

In the name of Jesus—the one who broke bread with strangers and broke down every wall—we pray. Amen.

Scripture reading Acts 15:1–21 (CEB)
(Printed in full in this bulletin)

Message “Belonging without Becoming”

*Hymn after the message “One Bread, One Body” UMH #620
lyrics on the screen

Invitation to generosity: Offering baskets are available on the side/back of the sanctuary. Or Mail your check: PO Box 1068, Girdwood, AK 99587, or give online; *scan QR code*→



Offering prayer: Please join me in offering prayer

**All: God of abundance and grace,
We bring these offerings as a sign of our gratitude—
not to earn belonging, but because we already belong.
Use these gifts, and use us,
to widen the circle of compassion,
to nourish the body of Christ in all its beautiful diversity,
and to build a community where no one has to become
someone else in order to be fully loved.
We dedicate these offerings—and our very lives—
to the work of your inclusive, boundary-breaking gospel.
Amen.**

Joys and concerns & The Lord's prayer

One: God in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Holy communion: *All are welcome at this open table.*
*Invitation to the Table; The Great Thanksgiving; Epiclesis;
Breaking the Bread; Sharing the Bread and the Cup*

*Closing hymn “We Are the Church” UMH #558
lyrics on the screen

*Benediction

*Sending forth song “On Eagles Wings” (CCLI Song #3127)
It is the tradition of the Girdwood Chapel UMC to form a circle, hold hands, and sing ‘On Eagles Wings.’

Subscribe our church newsletter, “Chapel Chatter”



Scripture reading Acts 15:1–21 (CEB)

1 Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we’ve received from Moses, you can’t be saved.”

2 Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position.

The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders.

3 The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters.

4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity.

5 Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, “The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses.”

6 The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter.

7 After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, “Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe.

8 God, who knows people’s deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith.

10 Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear?

11 On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

12 The entire assembly fell quiet as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describe all the signs and wonders God did among the Gentiles through their activity.

13 When Barnabas and Paul also fell silent, James responded, “Fellow believers, listen to me.

14 Simon reported how, in his kindness, God came to the Gentiles in the first place, to raise up from them a people of God.

15 The prophets’ words agree with this; as it is written, 16 After this I will return, and I will rebuild David’s fallen tent; I will rebuild what has been torn down. I will restore it so that the rest of humanity will seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who belong to me. The Lord says this, the one who does these things 18 known from earliest times.

19 “Therefore, I conclude that we shouldn’t create problems for Gentiles who turn to God.

20 Instead, we should write a letter, telling them to avoid the pollution associated with idols, sexual immorality, eating meat from strangled animals, and consuming blood.

21 After all, Moses has been proclaimed in every city for a long time, and is read aloud every Sabbath in every synagogue.”

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.