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## SERVICE NOTES

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

This week's worship helpers—Greeter: Jody, Tech Helper: Gus, Liturgist: Betty C., Preacher: Pastor Hyunghee Kim

Next Week's Worship Helpers Sign-up

- Greeter: Loretta
- Tech Helper: Lynné
- Liturgist: Terry

## Announcements:

- **Food Pantry:** First Sundays 2-4p.m., 2nd&4th Wednesday 4-6p.m.
- **Strategic Church Planning Sessions:** You're invited to participate in this session! After today's worship, we'll gather with Superintendent Kristi (via Zoom) from 11:35 am to 1pm to talk about who we are, how we see our church, and how God may be leading us forward.
- **Fall Sermon Series (Sep. 21–Nov. 16)** follows a book, *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows*. If you'd like to purchase a copy, please contact Wendy.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Green Room.



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

***Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost***  
***September 21, 2025, 10:30 a.m.***

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

Welcome & Announcements (*back of bulletin*)

\*Call to worship

One: Come, seekers of God—

**Many: We come, longing for peace, purpose, and love.**

One: Jesus turns and asks, *“What are you seeking?”*

**Many: We are seeking the One who gives life.**

One: Christ says, *“Come and you will see.”*

**All: We come to see, to follow, to dwell in God's presence.**

\*Opening hymn “Open The Eyes of My Heart”

*lyrics on the screen* by Maranatha! Music

Opening prayer

**All: Gracious God, You have searched us and known us.**

**You know what we carry—our hopes and our fears,  
our doubts and our dreams.**

**When Jesus turns and asks, “What are you seeking?”**

**help us to answer with honesty,**

**and help us to hear his invitation: “Come and you will see.”**

**Draw us close in this time of worship.**

**Shape us not by the false stories of striving,**

**but by your true story of grace, that in Christ we may abide,**

**and by your Spirit we may be transformed.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Scripture reading John 1:35–42 (ESV)

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him,

“Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

39 He said to them, “Come and you will see.”

So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him,

“We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).

42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

One: This is the Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Message “What Are You Seeking?”

\*Hymn after the message “Open My Eyes, That I May See”  
*lyrics on the screen* UMH #454

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: Dear God,**

**All that we have and all that we are comes from you.**

**We do not give to earn your love or to prove our worth.**

**We give because you have already welcomed us,  
already invited us to come and see.**

**Take these gifts, and take us,**

**to tell your good and beautiful story,  
to serve our neighbors with compassion,  
and to join in your work of healing and hope.  
In Christ's name, we pray. 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; Communion Instructions; Sharing the Bread  
and the Cup; Prayer after Communion*

\*Closing hymn “Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home”  
*lyrics on the screen* UMH #284

\*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”**



## Message Guide “What Are You Seeking?”

### 1. The Question That Searches Us

Jesus’ first words in John’s Gospel are not a command but a question: “*What are you seeking?*”

- Everyday, we are seeking \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Seeking reveals our deepest \_\_\_\_\_.

Where do you see this question searching you right now?

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### 2. False Narratives: Where We Go Looking

James Bryan Smith calls these *false narratives*—stories we live by that are not true.

One false narrative: “*We can change by willpower.*”

- I am only loved if \_\_\_\_\_.
- I must fix myself by \_\_\_\_\_.

How do you see this false story at work in your own life?

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### 3. Jesus’ Invitation: A New Way of Life

The disciples answer Jesus: “*Rabbi, where are you staying?*”

- The Greek word *menō* means to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus replies: “*Come (erchomai) and you will see (horaō).*” Discipleship begins not with perfection, but with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Where in your life do you hear Jesus saying, “*Come and you will see*”?

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### 4. God’s Narrative, Not Ours

Transformation is not about trying harder. It comes when God reshapes our vision.

- Where I once believed \_\_\_\_\_, now I can see \_\_\_\_\_.
- Where I once thought \_\_\_\_\_, now I know \_\_\_\_\_.

What story is God rewriting in you right now?

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### 5. What Are You Seeking Today?

- Some are seeking \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some are seeking \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some are seeking \_\_\_\_\_.

Which of your own seekings do you want to place in Jesus’ hands this week?

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### 6. A Practice for the Week

Each day, pause and ask yourself:

- “*What am I truly seeking right now?*”
- Then hear Jesus’ words: “*Come, and you will see.*”

How will you make space this week to come closer to Christ?