

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST ~ VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION**

10 a.m.

November 12, 2023

*\* indicates "stand if you are able." UMH is the blue hymnal. TFWS is the small black book.*

PRELUDE

*"Moment Musicale"  
by Franz Schubert*

INTROIT

*"Psalm 23"  
by Gabriel Wilson & Shane Litchfield*

Tyler Stankiewicz, Soloist

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: The risen Christ is with us.

**All: Praise the Lord!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you

**All: And also with you**

One: Let us share God's love and peace with one another.

\*HYMN

*"How Great Thou Art"*

UMH #77

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is from everlasting to everlasting.

**All: The Holy One inhabits all eternity and everything that is, or was, or ever will be.**

One: God is the source, guide, and goal of our lives.

**All: We acknowledge God as the center of our lives and of our world, not ourselves.**

One: We come today to worship God.

**All: We come with thanks and praise.**

One: Let us humble ourselves before God's holy presence.

**All: May God teach us the ways of life as we pray.**

OPENING PRAYER

**In the stillness of this moment, awaken us to the astonishing truth that your love is like the celebratory love of a couple on their wedding day. Help us choose again to live in you love and to yield every aspect of our lives to your divine rule. Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

Insert

*A Prayer for Those in Military Service*

*A Veteran's Day Prayer – all veterans who are present are invited to stand*

\*HYMN

*"America" Verses 1, 2, 4*

UMH #697

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*"Children's Message"*

Virginia Lorenzi

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another. *(From UMH page 7)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Christ Jesus, we want to believe in your kingdom – a kingdom that is already, but not yet, in our midst. It seems so far off as we bear our load of suffering and grief. Some days it's easier to get discouraged and distracted even to give in to the long, dark nights of our worries and fears. Sometimes it's easier to grow numb and lose hope, even to forget we even know you. We want to trust that you haven't forgotten us. We want to wake up and choose to live our lives inside the rule of your love. We want to hope. We want to offer wisdom and encouragement to the generations to come. But we need your help. In your mercy hear this prayer and the prayer in our hearts. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved of Christ, get up and get dressed, it is time to go to a wedding! Trade your sweats for your fancy clothes. Kick off your well-worn sneakers and lace up your dancing shoes! Christ has already chosen you! Will you choose to live in Christ's love?

**All: We choose God's saving love again. We choose holy joy for our lives. We choose the Risen Christ. Halleluia! Amen!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Incline our ears to the words of your truth.

**All: In you, O God, we set our hope. Amen.**

SCRIPTURES: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

One: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "An Awakening"

Jeffrey Ridley

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Let us be generous in our giving, that others may see in us the transforming power of God. Let us be lavish in our gifts, that others may draw life from the bounty of God's blessings.**

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit" CUMC Adult Choir  
by Jeff Miller

\*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Holy God, we sometimes treat money as our god. May we listen anew to Joshua's plea that the Hebrew people put away foreign gods. In our giving, free us from our love and worship of money. In today's offering, we choose to love again and to worship you alone in every aspect of our lives. Receive our gifts with gratitude and praise for your unending love. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

**God of peace and justice, you have taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Today we raise Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and Russia, and all parts of the world where people are suffering from war. Provide protection and comfort to the innocent who have been impacted. Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression. Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference. Stop the wars o, God. Amen.**

\*HYMN "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" UMH #720

\*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Go with peace and with hope. Find your place every day inside God's saving love. Allow it to transform your ways. Open your eyes to those who suffer and offer God's love and hope with lavish generosity.

POSTLUDE "For the Beauty of the Earth"

by Folliot Pierpont/arr. by Michael Burkhardt

**OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED**

**NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS**

**COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

100 Park Boulevard, Massapequa, New York 11758 • (516) 541-7008

November 12, 2023

Rev. Sue Hyosuk Yun Jeong-Hwa Park Mrs. Stacey Longenberger  
Pastor Minister of Music Secretary