

September 17, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Heifer International Sunday
Backpack Blessing Sunday

The Church Gathers

Joys & Concerns

Prelude "Lord, Prepare Me to Be A Sanctuary" FWS2164

*Opening Hymn: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" UMH127

*Call to Worship: (*responsive*)

L: When the tides of fear seem to overwhelm us, we cry out....

P: Lord, come to us and lead us to paths of safety!

L: When we feel lost and alone and we wonder if anyone cares about us,
we cry out....

P: Lord, come and heal our wounded spirits!

L: When turbulence within and without seem to threaten us, we cry out....

P: Lord, bring us peace. AMEN.

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

**When we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life,
enter our hearts with your redeeming love, O Christ.**

**When our fears overtake us and we cannot find our way,
give us direction that we might faithfully serve you all our days,
singing your praises! Amen.**

We Offer Prayers & Praise

The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

*Presentation & Response: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH95

Children's Message

Heifer International

Wayne Reisberg

Blessing of the Backpacks

Special Music

James Carothers

We Meditate on God's Word

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 114

Prayer for Illumination: "Through It All" UMH507

*Second Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:23-31
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Have You Crossed the Sea?" Pastor Steven Cho

We Go Forth to Love & Serve

*Closing Hymn: "Go Down, Moses" UMH448

*Benediction

*Postlude

Announcements

The Church Goes Out to Love and Serve

* If you are able, please stand.

- Hymns & prayers designated with FWS are found in the small black hymnal, *The Faith We Sing*.