

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost



October 18, 2026

OPENING hymn: "How Great Thou Art" UMH #77

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God,
neighbor, self, and all creation.
We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.

The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.

Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving, living God, be among us now.

Show us your ways.

Guide our steps.

Live in us,

that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving.

Help us hear your words,

challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.

Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love.

Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love.

Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage.

We ask it in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine" UMH #585

A Reading of Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

This is in Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith:

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead —Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

**Message: I am a Who-So-Ever
By June Klassen**

Prayer of Confession:

God of Grace,
We know that you have chosen us,
but we often forget that you have also chosen others.
You call us to be imitators of Christ,
yet many times we are imitators of the world.
You challenge us to turn from our idols,
but we are tempted to turn back to them again and again.

Rescue us, Lord, from ourselves.
Show us your way.
Guide our every action,
that we may live as you call us, your chosen children, to live.

We offer up our silent prayers of confession...

Merciful God:

We believe that you sent your son Jesus into the world to take away the sins of the world and by doing so, you chose us as your beloved children. To you, we are precious. Come into our hearts, then, and give us strength and courage to be a chosen people so we can continue to choose and serve you. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who showed us how this is done. Amen.

Loving God,

We confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost.

In the name of Christ, the one who chooses us, we pray.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: “When We All Get to Heaven” #701

Assurance of Forgiveness: Friends, hear the good news: Jesus came not to condemn us, but to choose us, to love us and to save us. Know now that you and I are forgiven and be at peace because we are chosen by a living God each and every day.

Alleluia! Amen.

BENEDICTION: May God bless you with the assurance that you are chosen children of God, empowered and equipped by the Spirit to live as the Family of God in a world in desperate need of the good news. **Amen.**

References and Resources

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