

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Worship Service September 20, 2026
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship will be held in the Sanctuary
Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy & Linda Gay

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Instrumental*

OPENING PRAYER

Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.

Written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay and posted on the Worship Ways website of the United Church of Christ at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-17a-september-24/>.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Music *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* UMH No. 420
Please stand in body or in spirit

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.

TITHES & OFFERING [HTTPS://WWW.SOVUMC.ORG/GIVING](https://www.sovumc.org/giving)

OFFERTORY *Spirit of Gentleness* SOV Choir

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

DOXOLOGY UMH No. 94
Please stand in body or in spirit

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READING**Philippians 1: 21-30**

NT page 196

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel**Matthew 20: 1-16**

NT page 21

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

MESSAGE

Striving Side by Side

Rev. Effie McAvoy

MUSIC

Your Love, O God

UMH No. 120

CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE

Cathy Clasper-Torch

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Worship @ 9A

SUNDAY SCHOOL (September-May) Sundays, 9AM

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9A - Noon

Rev. Effie McAvoy, Pastor- Lisa Marciniak, Family & Children's Ministry Coordinator
Mary Hunter and Megan Crete, Lay Leaders- Cathy Clasper-Torch, Music Leader

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY UMC VISION STATEMENT

We are a multi-generational Christ community seeking to sing God's spirit
into the world by inviting all, serving all, loving all.