CLEMSON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Our Church

Clemson United Methodist Church welcomes all who seek to explore their faith and build a relationship with God. No matter who you are, who you've been, what you do, what you've done, what you have, what you lack, what you can do, what limitations you have, who you love, the color of your skin, where you are from, or anything else....the answer to the question, "Even me?" is "YES!" every time. Come as you are and join us on our faith journey as we seek to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

We Gather in the Name of God

Congregational responses are in **Bold**. | ✞Please stand as you are able.

Welcome to all who are with us today! Whether you are worshiping in the Worship Center or via livestream, the Holy Spirit unites us together as one.

THIS WEEK AT CUMC — Rev. Fran Elrod

PRELUDE *(Children ages Three thru Second Grade are invited to go to the PrayGround)*

✞CALL TO WORSHIP — Ms. Amanda Thomas

Leader: We rejoice and praise Your holy name today, O Lord,
People: Because you have kept us from a destructive path.
Leader: We give thanks because Your word gives us hope,
People: And we reflect on Your word at all times.
Leader: You are the Source of deep-seated faith,
People: And our spirits are refreshed in your presence! Amen!

✞HYMN OF PRAISE — *Blessed Assurance* (UMH 369)

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
(Refrain)

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
(Refrain)

✞OPENING PRAYER — Ms. Thomas

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.
Creating and loving God, you are the source of all life, creating and sustaining every living thing. Gracious God, you are the source of all food, material and spiritual, nourishing us in both body and soul. You are the light that goes before us, shining into the darkness. Holy God, as we worship you this day, may we be filled with your breath, nourished by your food, renewed by your living water, and sustained by your love. In Christ we pray, Amen.

✟AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are a community of faith. We share a vision of God: a God whose spirit is love, accessible to all yet beyond our knowing, the source of all being, the way leading to wholeness, the spirit which pervades everything. We search for the meaning of God and our own experience revealed in those sacred stories which have been passed down to us. We tell them again and again: Of God the Creator, the Almighty, who made everything that is and saw that it was good. Of Jesus of Nazareth, who in history lived among us, healed the afflicted, taught, suffered and died. He forgave those who crucified him. In the mystery of the resurrection he continues to live more profoundly through the ages, the Incarnation of Love, the Christ, to whom his disciples have responded "My Lord and my God!" He shows us the Way which leads to the reconciliation of all things, saying "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." It is the Way of love, compassion, justice, forgiveness, and peace. Of the Spirit, the Breath, the Wind of God, the Giver of Life, the Holy Wisdom, who inspires the people of God to cry out for justice for the powerless and oppressed, to see the presence of God in every created thing, and to respond with love. Of the communion of saints: all the people of God, living, dead and yet to be born, who are empowered to recognize that they are, and always have been, brothers and sisters, one family in God. We are reborn in the Spirit, followers of that Way shown by Jesus: to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbors as ourselves; to treat others as we would have them treat us; to strive for justice and peace; to have respect and compassion for every person and for the whole of creation; to forgive those who do us harm; to love one another as Christ has loved us. We journey together on this Way towards reconciliation with the whole creation. We break bread together and pray together. We reach out to one another for strength beyond our own. This is our community. This is our faith. Amen!

✟SUNG RESPONSE *Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen.

We Proclaim and Respond to God's Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON	*James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*	Ms. Thomas
✟GOSPEL LESSON	*Mark 9:30-37*	Rev. Elrod
SERMON	*How to Be a Character Witness*	Rev. Elrod

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

✙DOXOLOGY *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We Are Blessed to Go Forth and Serve

✙HYMN OF SENDING FORTH *Are Ye Able* (UMH 530)

1. "Are ye able," said the Master, "to be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered, "to the death we follow thee."

Refrain:
Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine. Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

2. Are ye able to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes,
that his pardoned soul is worthy of a place in paradise?
(Refrain)

3. Are ye able when the shadows close around you with the sod,
to believe that spirit triumphs, to commend your soul to God?
(Refrain)

4. Are ye able? Still the Master whispers down eternity,
and heroic spirits answer, now as then in Galilee.
(Refrain)

✙DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING Rev. Elrod

✙POSTLUDE

Serving in Worship Today

Rev. Fran Elrod, *preacher*
Amanda Thomas, *liturgist*
Cheryl Lee, *accompanist*
Caroline Boyt, *vocalist*
Christopher Nelon, *audio/visual technician*