

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

September 23, 2018

The twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “. . . Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves (seven) of good standing, full of the Spirit, and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these seven stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

— Acts 6.1-7

GATHERING AT GOD’S INVITATION

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Marietta Mobley *piano*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. Alan Sherouse

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Ron Boud

Festival Toccata on St. Thomas

†UNISON PRAYER

Terri Vancil

**O God of all creation, you alone are God.
And you alone can satisfy our longing for the support
that earth cannot give and that heaven will not take away.
Help us, in recognition of our common dependence on you,
to acknowledge our need of one another.**

**Let the oneness of our worship
make us one in love and service. Amen.**

†HYMN 702

ST. THOMAS

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

†WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP

Rev. Amy Grizzle Kane

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Grizzle Kane

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

During the musical interlude, children, ages four through first grade, may attend **Junior Church** and return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

OPENING OF GOD'S WORD

Sarah Moore

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Willis

James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a

SERMON

Rev. Sherouse

Faith That Works | The Good Life

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE 653

MAKE ME A SERVANT

Make Me a Servant

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

DEACON ORDINATION

Deacon nominees for ordination and installation

Anita Cranford, Meganne Gould, Debbie Huneycutt, Shaun Martin
Autumn Culbreth, Richard Beavers, Mark McCracken, Betty Morgan

Deacon nominees for installation having previous ordination

Jeff Bennett, John Fisher, Bob Godfrey,
Cookie Hamilton, John Sample, Patrick Wilson

LITANY

Rev. Courtney Willis

Congregation, these are the persons whom you have asked to be your servant leaders. Will you hold them and their office in high esteem?

We will.

Do you desire them to lead us with courage, conviction and compassion? **We do.**

Do you humbly accept the congregation's confidence in you? **We do.**

And will you pledge to be responsible bearers of this trust? **We do.**

Will you be interpreters of our ministry to one another, to this community and to the world? **We will.**

Will you be prophets, calling us back to the hard truth we would sometimes rather forget? **We will.**

Will you be pastors to us in our sickness and sorrow, and friends to us in times of stress and indecision? **We will.**

PRAYER AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Sherouse

CHORAL PRAYER

Pepper Choplin

Sweet Are the Prayers of a Friend
Sanctuary Choir

*How sweet are the prayers that are offered by a friend
who calls up to heaven; calling "Lord, come down and bless again."*

*Friends pray for healing, they pray revealing the heavy burdens of our souls.
They pray for unfailing courage, asking God to make us whole.*

*They pray us through troubles, through all our struggles
when life seems to fall apart.*

*They pray us through grieving,
always believing God can heal the broken heart.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Congregation, will we give our lives in friendship, community, fellowship and cooperation with these Deacons? Will we work together, as we co-labor with God, in the mission to which we are called: the formation of Christian community? **We will.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sharon Barlow
2017-2018 Deacon Chairperson

Beach Spring Tune

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Sherouse

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

BEACH SPRING



We are trav - elers on a jour - ney, fel - low pil -
I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you laugh,



grims on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sor - row,



walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ-light
till we've seen this jour-ney through. When we sing to God in



for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold
heav-en, we shall find such har-mo - ny, born of all



my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
we've known to - geth-er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.



The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God
in memory of **Vida and Fred Williams** from their family.

The rosebud welcomes **Hadley James Haynes**, born September 13 to
Kristen and Jimmy Haynes, and big sisters Alice and Olivia.