

Montevallo Presbyterian Church

Date August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 15

Prelude “Be Thou My Vision” (Arranged by Richard Kingsmore)
Accompanist, Magnus Eck

Welcome and Invitation to Worship Rev. Shelaine Bird

Introit 765 “May the God of Hope Go With Us” MPC Choir

Call to Worship Liturgist, Casey Pilgrim

Wisdom has prepared a feast for us.

Let us eat and drink of God’s gifts.

Let us share God’s gifts with all who hunger and thirst.

Let us be open to new learning from those whom we least expect.

May we worship the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Gracious and welcoming God,
you gather your people from every place and circumstance,
calling us into your presence and your love.

Open our hearts to the wideness of your mercy.

Help us see beyond the boundaries we create
and recognize that your blessing is for all people.

Gather us in today, O God,
that our worship might reflect your love
and our praise might reach to all the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Hymn 516 “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

Call to Confession

God calls us to live fully in the light of grace, yet we know there are times when we wander from that path. We forget God's love, misuse the gifts we have been given, and fall short of who God calls us to be.

Let us come before our merciful God with humility and honesty, trusting that we are met not with condemnation, but with grace. Let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,

**In your presence we acknowledge how often
we fail to live into the fullness you made us to be.**

**You alone know how often we have strayed in wandering from your ways,
wasting your gifts, forgetting your love.**

**By your loving grace, help us to live humbly in your Light,
and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

~ silent prayer ~

The liturgist pours water into the font in remembrance of our baptism.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

In the name of Jesus Christ, we celebrate that we are forgiven.

Hallelujah and amen!

Musical Response

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

The people may exchange signs of peace.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God,
 open our hearts and minds to your Word.
 Give us ears to hear what you are saying,
 eyes to see beyond the boundaries we have made,
 and hearts willing to be changed by your truth.
 As we listen to your Scriptures,
 may your Spirit guide us into deeper faith,
 greater compassion, and a wider understanding of your love.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 56:6-8 NRSV

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalms Reading Psalm 67

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us
 and make his face to shine upon us,
²that your way may be known upon earth,
 your saving power among all nations.
³**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
 let all the peoples praise you.**
⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
 for you judge the peoples with equity
 and guide the nations upon earth.
⁵**Let the peoples praise you, O God;**

let all the peoples praise you.

⁶The earth has yielded its increase;

God, our God, has blessed us.

⁷May God continue to bless us;

let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Anthem: 487

“These Treasured Children” (v. 3,4,5)

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 15:21-28 NRSV

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

For the Word of God in scripture,

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Time For School!”

Rev. Shelaine Bird

Hymn

301

“All Are Welcome”

Announcements and Invitations to Discipleship

Prayers of the People

Offering / Offertory:

Come, Christians, Join to Sing (Arranged by Mark Hayes) Accompanist, Magnus Eck

Doxology #609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices

with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In love with you and in compassion for all, Jesus healed and taught, challenged and comforted, welcomed and saved. He formed a community, promising to be with his disciples wherever two or three were gathered, and sending them on his mission of hope and healing in the world. Jesus trusted his life to you, and went freely to his death, so the world might be set free from suffering and sin. You raised him from death and raise us also to live a new life with him. In the power of the Holy Spirit, you send us out to make disciples as he commanded. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

O God, today you have called us together to be the church. Unite us now at your table, and in one loaf and a common cup, make us one in Christ Jesus. Let your Spirit empower the life we share and ignite our witness in the world. With all who have gone before us, keep us faithful to the gospel teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Give us strength to serve you until the promised day of the resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now we join with churches all over the world as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Breaking of the Bread

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

The Communion of the People

[During the distribution of the elements, the people may sing together #501, "Feed Us, Lord".]

Prayer After Communion

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Time for Children #487 “These Treasured Children”

These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow: with love, we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus’ name.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Passing Out the Tags: Ask the children (the children may have come up during the song) , Teachers, & School Staff to come forward for Blessing of the Backpacks

Sharing the Blessing:

Along with the backpack tag, I also want to share a blessing with you.

A blessing is something that you receive, so can you open your hands like you are ready to receive a special gift?

As I speak, imagine the words are dancing, floating, and fluttering all around, and watch them as they land on your hands and on your backpack. If you want to receive it, take the blessing and put it in your heart. May these tags remind you that God is always with you. As you sit and as you stand, as you learn and as you play, in every fear and every celebration, may you know God, your friend, is always there.

Prayer for the School Year

God of fresh starts and new beginnings,

we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.

In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons,

and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.

There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all.

Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk.
 Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.
 However we get there, and whatever we wear,
 bless this journey into something new.

For the grown-ups going back to school, be with them too.
 Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders,
 and for all they do to help us learn and grow.

God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.
 Amen.

Charge and Blessing

Postlude #700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me –
 anywhere, Lord, any time.*

*I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me –
 anywhere, Lord, any time.*

*I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me –
 anywhere, Lord, any time.*

*I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me –
 anywhere, Lord, any time.*