

*** Choral Benediction**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

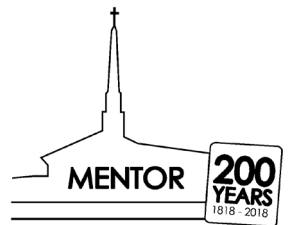
*** Postlude** "Agincourt Hymn" Dunstable

** Members of the congregation stand if able.*

Altar flowers are presented by Kathy Barton
in loving memory of husband Chuck Barton.

Pulpit flowers are presented by Jim Lodge and loving family
in loving memory of Bev Lodge; wife, mother and grandmother.

If you would like to order flowers in memory of loved ones, to celebrate an anniversary, or offer them to the Glory of God, please contact Kathy Fellows at 440-255-5899.



United Methodist Church

8600 Mentor Avenue . Mentor OH 44060
Phone (440) 255-3496
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Mentor United Methodist Church

Order of Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 23, 2018

The liturgical color is green, signifying life and growth in the Christian church.

GATHERING

Prelude "Now Pray We To The Holy Spirit" Buxtehude
Amy Bender, organist

Lighting of the Candles **Presentation of God's Holy Word**
Please sign and pass the attendance pad that you find at the end of each pew.
If you are joining us for the first time today, please complete the blue sheet.

Welcome & Announcements
Stewardship Rich Elwell

*** Call to Worship** Rev. Bruce Becker

Leader: Let your light shine!

People: Let your hearts be glad!

Leader: God is faithful to us, and God rules in love.

People: Then let us worship God.

*** Prayer**

O Father, the sense of salvation is too simple for us to accept. "My grace is sufficient for you" is what you say, but how can it be, when in our hearts and minds we want to earn our own way?

More sadly yet, sometimes we think we've almost earned it, and then resent the notion of grace, particularly that it be shown to others.

"My grace is sufficient for you" is hard for us to take when we realize the "you" is plural and that your grace embraces people we don't like, people we are uncomfortable around, people by whom we are scandalized.

Then you throw a party and invite us all as guests of honor, and we stand sulking in the corner because it isn't all just for us. Lord, touch us with your healing grace that frees us from this silliness. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn 363** "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" SAGINA

Choir Dedication (9:00 Charter Members, 11:00 Chancel Choir)

To the choir:

Do you promise to use your gift of song, of harmony, of weaving together instruments and voices as an offering to God of praise and thanksgiving?

We do, by the grace of God.

Do you promise to use your musical gifts to share the message of the gospel, to combine voice, instruments, and much joy?

We do, by the grace of God.

To the congregation:

Do you promise to bring your voice to the hymns we sing in the year ahead?

Will you sing with honesty in all the seasons of the church year?

Will you bring a robust voice to traditional hymns and a commitment to sing a new song to the Lord?

We will, by the grace of God.

Anthem 9:00 "Give Us A Song" Joseph M. Martin
Charter Members

11:00 "When In Our Music God is Glorified"
Choral setting by Harriet Zefenthals
Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Sermon Lost Chapter of the Bible Rev. Kurt Landerholm
The Elder Son
Luke 15:25-32

*** Hymn 191** "Jesus Loves Me" JESUS LOVES ME

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory 9:00 "My Faith Has Found A Resting Place" Chuck Bridwell
Charter Members

11:00 "I Am Not My Own" Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir

*** Doxology** UMH 94

**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!**

*** Prayer of Dedication**

THANKSGIVING

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

Gracious God, we joyously place before you our offerings. May these gifts support our ministry so that others may gather in your name and follow your path of love and peace. We, your beloved children, seek to be "imitators of Christ" and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*** Hymn 347** "Spirit Song" SPIRIT SONG