

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Opening Words Romans 14: 1-12

The Weak and the Strong

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord,
'every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

*Hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns" Hymnal 327

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, MUSIC: George Elvey

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark how the heavenly anthem
drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of him
who died for thee, and hail him
as thy matchless King through all eternity

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.

His glories now we sing, who died,
and rose on high, who died,
eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.

His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet fair
flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.

All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory
shall not fail throughout eternity.

Welcome

Pastor Scott Clawson

Call to Worship

Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another,
where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead
of neighbors.

**Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and
repair the rifts between us.**

The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we
wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked
for Jesus, but not for us.

**Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and
repair the rifts between us.**

We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions,
reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

**Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and
repair the rifts between us.**

In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

Hymn "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" Hymnal 176

Text: Jack Hayford, Music: Jack Hayford, 1981

Majesty, worship his majesty;
unto Jesus be all glory,
honor, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom, authority,
flow from his throne
unto his own;
his anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high
the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify
Christ, Jesus the King.

Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Liberating God, we worship you.

We praise you for delivering your people of old from enslavement in Egypt

by opening up a new and unexpected future before them.

They experienced your grace and mercy in awesome and life-sustaining ways,

which must have been like an impossible dream coming true.

Through these acts, you showed your compassion for the weak and powerless of this world.

We praise and adore you for opening up a new future for us when your love and compassion, your mercy and grace became enfleshed in Jesus Christ.

He delivered us from the bondage of evil and sin through his death on the cross.

The impossible once more became reality when love defeated evil once and for all.

We pray that this time of worship will be a true offering of our wonder and praise

that you should care for us so deeply and so faithfully.
This we pray in Jesus' name.

Prayer of Confession

O God, we seek your mercy...

yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged.

**We think it "only fair" and "what is right" when we retaliate
and use harsh words
and withdraw from relationship.**

**The forgiveness you offer on our account
is larger than we can comprehend;
still, we withhold forgiveness
and carry the grudge over petty items.**

**We are eager to do your judging.
And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts
to secure your forgiveness
while avoiding honest repentance.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts.
Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.**

Silent prayer of confession

Assurance of Pardon

God's gift of forgiveness makes us able,
with the power of Holy Spirit,
to choose to forgive, renew, and live again
in right relationship with each other and with our God.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

Hymn "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" Hymnal 176

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Majesty, worship his majesty;
unto Jesus be all glory,
honor, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom, authority,
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Magnify, come glorify
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Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 14: 19-31

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "As I Live"

Pastor Scott Clawson

* Hymn "Old Rugged Cross" Hymnal 504

WORDS & MUSIC: George Bennard

On a hill far away
stood an old rugged cross,
this emblem
of suffering and shame;

and I love that old cross
where the dearest and best
for a world of
lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish
the old rugged cross,
till my trophies
at last I lay down;

I will cling to
the old rugged cross,
and exchange it
someday for a crown

O that old rugged cross,
so despised by the world,
has a wondrous
attraction for me;

for the dear Lamb of God
left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.

So I'll cherish
the old rugged cross,
till my trophies
at last I lay down;

I will cling to
the old rugged cross,
and exchange it
someday for a crown

In that old rugged cross,
stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,

for 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.

So I'll cherish
the old rugged cross,
till my trophies
at last I lay down;

I will cling to
the old rugged cross,
and exchange it
someday for a crown

To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
its shame and
reproach gladly bear;

then he'll call me
someday to my home far away,
where his glory
for ever I'll share.

So I'll cherish
the old rugged cross,
till my trophies
at last I lay down;

I will cling to
the old rugged cross,
and exchange it
someday for a crown

Benediction

Followers of Christ, go now in the blessing and assurance that you are a forgiven people. **We are empowered by grace to forgive and heal the divisions that keep us from truly loving God, self, neighbor, and all creation with the fullness of our beings. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Response "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

9:30 AM WORSHIP LEADERS

Lay Reader: Berta Lafoon
Ushers/ Greeters: Bishop Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NMUMC by the Numbers: September 6, 2026

8:15 AM: 15 9:30 AM: 33 11:00 AM: 64 Nursery: 4 Online: 81

Total Offering: \$16,099.22 *Regular Offering:* \$8,998.22*

Food Pantry: \$50.00 Hope4Kids: \$575.00 New Ministry Center:
\$3,076.00

Organ Fund: \$150.00 Parsonage Rent: \$3,150.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$100.00

**Amount Needed to Meet Weekly Budget: \$5,862.53*

Church Meetings

Monday, September 14: Care Team – 5:30 PM - ED Building Kitchen

Tuesday, September 15: Morning Bible Study – 10:00 AM –
Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 15: Hope4Kids Packing Day – 6:00 PM –
Schoolhouse

Tuesday, September 15: Church Council – 7:00 PM – ED Building
Kitchen

Thursday, September 17: 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal – 6:30 PM – ED
Building

Fresh Start Service: This service will be held at 8:15 am at Fairview Chapel. (6802 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market 21774) The design for this service is for those who want to get an early start on their Sunday and those who are seeking an alternate worship experience. Acoustic guitar, prayer, a short inspirational message, and Communion will be highlighted. The service is designed to last a half hour. OR join us later for an evening service at 6:00 PM

**The Wednesday night Zoom Bible study will begin on Wednesday,
September 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

The class will continue the study started last Spring, “Not Guilty—Be Free to Experience God’s Love,” by Brian and Candice Simmons. This is a devotional study on the Book of Romans. You can jump in at any time. If you are interested and need a book, let Patty Robinson know—240-441-1170.

**Mark Your Calendars now for the Fiesta Friday dinner on Friday,
October 16.**

Daily Devotions Starting 9/14/26

Monday (9/14)- Exodus 16: 2-15

When was the last time you complained about an uncontrollable situation in your life? How can you turn your complaining into praise for the God who always provides for our needs?

Tuesday (9/15)- Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45

When you were in times of deep need, can you remember how the Lord delivered what you desired? What became your manna? Your water from a rock?

Wednesday (9/16)- Jonah 3: 10- 4: 11

Why was Jonah angry that the people of Nineveh repented? What silent grudges do you need to rid yourself of today?

Thursday (9/17)- Philippians 1: 21-30

Why would Paul rather be in the presence of the Lord instead of living in his earthly flesh? What changed his thought patterns?

Friday (9/18)- Psalm 145: 1-8

How can you follow the advice of verse 4 with younger generations?
How difficult do you think this might be?

Saturday (9/19)- Matthew 20: 1-16

What does this parable tell us about the grace of God?

Sunday (9/20)- Worship in person or online

Pastor Scott's Contact Information: Pastorscott62@gmail.com

240-409-8119 | Summer Office Hours: Thursday | 11 AM-4 PM