

Sunday Worship

August 23, 2026

13th Sunday after Pentecost/Back to School Sunday

Prelude

Welcome

Responsive Call to Worship:

In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?

God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?

God shows us through the midwives' daring, Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.

In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?

God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.

Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?

We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

--Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

Opening Prayer:

O God, Sustainer of all life and Creator of the universe, you set us aside to be leaders, so help us see things as they are and not only as they affect ourselves. Grant that we may have a wise and modest estimate of our own powers and live in full contact with all things high, true, and good. Teach us our failings and our faults; give us courage to acknowledge them and, by your grace, enable us to overcome them. Lift us above the unstable currents of our self-will and establish us on the rock of your purposes. Be to each of us the secret stay and the inner guide of our lives. May your Spirit dwell in us more and more, that your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds. Amen.

--Adapted from Lawrence Gandiya, Zimbabwe. Found in *Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 91.

Children's Moment – Back-to-School Blessing

Opening Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* UMH #127

Affirmation of Faith: Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada, UMH 883

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23 CEB

(reader) *The Word of the Lord!*

(All) Thanks be to God!

Hymn: *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* UMH #581

Scripture: Exodus 1:15-2:10 CE

(reader) *The Word of the Lord!*

(All) Thanks be to God!

Message: Lessons in Leadership: Power

Song of Response: *You Say* Lauren Daigle

Invitation to Offering

Offertory:

Doxology – Hymn 94

Offertory Prayer

Opportunities Coming Soon! (Announcements) {over}

Blessing (Benediction)

Closing Song: *Jesus Messiah*

Chris Tomlin

***Please join us for our Missions breakfast
benefitting Vancouver Public Schools***

Our Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Kim Poer
Office Administrator: Nancy Volgamore
Music Director: Matthew Compton
Accompanist: Josh Billings
Family Ministries: Tiffiney Nordby
Preschool Director: Angela Parrish
Preschool Teacher: Lynetta Anthony
Youth Ministries: Lacey Kelley

TODAY'S SERVANTS:

Lector: Elise Nordby
Greeters: Rich & Sandy Bippes
Ushers: Jean Berkheiser & Elaine Gilbert
A/V Booth: Kay Cooke & Dan Kingsley
Information Desk: Joan Stuart
Coffee Hosts: Missions Benefit Breakfast

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Lessons in Leadership: Power



*We are a welcoming United Methodist Church congregation that
worships together as disciples of Jesus Christ,
uniting in fellowship, missions and service.*