

Welcome to the Rectortown United Methodist Church

*No matter where you have been or where you have failed to be –
what you have said or what you have failed to say - what you have
done or what you have failed to do - whom you have loved or whom
you have failed to love - you are welcome here.*

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE - let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we become aware of the *Light of Christ* in our midst.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021, p. 196)*

Remember God's gracious abundance and give thanks.
Remember Christ's call upon our lives to be faithful.
Open yourself to the Holy Spirit, for this is the time to worship.

We gather here to worship God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

We gather surrounded by God's Holy Spirit, who encourages us to walk faithfully with Christ.

Praise be to God, whose goodness and mercy fill our days.

Praise be to God, whose ways lead to peace and justice.

HYMN Open My Eyes, That I May See UMH 454

OPENING PRAYER *(adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021, p. 196)*

Most loving and gracious God of abundant life – you want the best for your people around the world. You bring healing, wholeness, and new life to all your children. On this day, may our eyes be open to the presence of Christ in one another. May our ears be open to the needs of our community. May our hands be open to serve the forgotten. And may our hearts be open to receive your

Holy Spirit along this journey of faith. All this we pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

YOUNG DISCIPLES' MESSAGE

Playing favorites...

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(adapted from FOTW Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 2, pp. 152 and 157)

Holy God – whose Spirit comes to us in moments of both strength and weakness, come now into our midst and illumine our hearts and minds so that we may receive your words and demonstrate your grace. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7:24-37

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSIVE READING

125

Insert

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-17

* Gloria Patri

UMH 70

MESSAGE *Favoritism and the unexpected...*

HYMN Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

Insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

* Doxology
Offertory Prayer

UMH 94

THANKSGIVING

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

SENDING FORTH

HYMN Together We Serve

TFWS 2175

SENDING FORTH

Live in Charity

TFWS 2179

*This worship service has ended, and now your service begins.
As you leave church today, you are entering the mission field.*

Questions for Reflection

(adapted from FOTW Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 2, p. 159)

Try to recall the first time in your life when you did not retreat in the face of opposition. How is your experience life that of the Syrophenician woman putting her case before Jesus? Where in your life today is that same courage calling you to speak out? What could you do this week to take steps in that direction.

Rectortown United Methodist Church

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Rectortown United Methodist Church

September 5th, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Proper 18



Bishop: Sharma D. Lewis
District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez
Pastor: Rev. Steven W. Weedling
4082 Rectortown Road, Marshall, VA 20115
Pastor's Cell Phone: (540) 340-2569
Pastor's E-mail: steveweedling@vaumc.org
Music Director: Karen Chase
Ministers: every member of the congregation