

# October 15, 2023

20th Sunday of Pentecost



## Come Worship the Living



### PRELUDE

### OPENING PRAYER

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

UMH 400

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### SPECIAL MUSIC

**NRSV** 1 In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 The Lord gave King Jehoiakim of Judah into his power, as well as some of the vessels of the house of God. These he brought to the land of Shinar, and he placed the vessels in the treasury of his gods. 3 Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility: 4 young men without physical defect and handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent to serve in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5 The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king's court. 6 Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah. 7 The palace master gave them other names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine, so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself. 9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion from the palace master. 10 The palace master said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king; he has appointed your food and your drink. If he should see you in poorer condition than the other young men of your age, you would endanger my head with the king." 11 Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 12 "Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to

drink. 13 You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations and deal with your servants according to what you observe." 14 So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations. 16 So the guard continued to withdraw their royal rations and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables. 17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and wisdom; Daniel also had insight into all visions and dreams. 18 At the end of the time that the king had set for them to be brought in, the palace master brought them into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar, 19 and the king spoke with them. Among them all, no one was found to compare with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they were stationed in the king's court. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. 21 And Daniel continued there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**NLT** 1 During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god. 3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. 4 "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon." 5 The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service. 6 Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. 7 The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names: Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego. 8 But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. 9 Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. 10 But he responded, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered

that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded." 11 Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 12 "Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said. 13 "At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see." 14 The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. 16 So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others. 17 God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams. 18 When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. 20 Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom. 21 Daniel remained in the royal service until the first year of the reign of King Cyrus.

**LEADER:** This is the Word of God for the people of God

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON**

*Generosity Matters*

Rev. Claudia Stallings

## **PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, which 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.

## **OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS**

### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **HYMN**

*Freely, Freely*

UMH 389

1. God forgave my sin in Jesus'  
name,  
I've been born again in Jesus'  
name;  
And in Jesus' name I come to  
you  
To share His love as He told me  
to.

2. All power is given in Jesus'  
name,  
In earth and heaven in Jesus'  
name;  
And in Jesus' name I come to  
you  
To share His power as He told  
me to.

Chorus:

He said: 'Freely, freely, you  
have received,  
Freely, freely give;  
Go in My name, and because  
you believe  
Others will know that I live.'

## **DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

## **DRAWING CIRCLES OF PRAYER AROUND:**

Family of Sherry Fox

Henry Gonzalez

George Salley

Doris Hancock

Katie Smith

Fred Snyder

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Full calendar can be found at [www.ramseymemorial.org](http://www.ramseymemorial.org)

October 16	Charge Conference	7:00 pm, Woodlake UMC
October 19	Prayer Group	11:00 am
October 21	Journey Work Day	Offsite
October 22	21st Sunday of Pentecost	10:00 am, Sanctuary
October 26	Prayer Group	11:00 am
October 28	Fall Fest & Neighborhood Supper	4:00-6:00 pm

Scan the QR code below to be  
directed to our online giving  
resource!



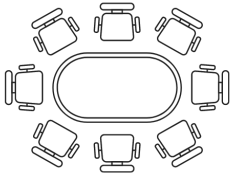
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHARGE CONFERENCE

Ramsey will join eight other churches for the annual Charge Conference at 7:00 pm on Monday, October 16 at Woodlake UMC.



## LEADERSHIP BOARD



The Leadership Board will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00pm in the CLC.

All are invited. Please contact the church office if you would like the ZOOM link.

## WORK DAY

The next work day at Journey in Amelia will be October 21 from 9 am until noon.

If you can help, contact Russ Cottrell at [russellcottrell1945@gmail.com](mailto:russellcottrell1945@gmail.com)



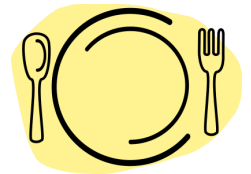
## HELP NEEDED

The Fellowship Team that plans Ramsey's church-wide dinners wants YOU to join them.

To volunteer, contact Chante Jacobs at 804-971-4365.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPER

Ramsey's next Neighborhood Supper will be held in conjunction with the Fall Fest on Saturday, October 28 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Come join us!



## FALL FEST

Ramsey's Fall Fest will be on October 28 from 4-6 pm and will include Trunk or Treat, Hay Rides, and our free Neighborhood Supper.