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Live Service Audio: 940-322-1100

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – July 25, 2021

THE GATHERING

Prelude

Debbie Watson

Welcome

Dr. Mark Bender

Please let us know you're here by texting FCC to 77411.

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Claire Baer

Opening Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing – vs. 1, 2 & 3

No. 5

***O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!***

***Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.***

***My loving Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.***

Opening Prayer

Claire Baer

THE PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:97-105

Dr. Mark Bender

*The response is found on page 326: **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

Sung response

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Sung response

Dedication of VBS Volunteers

Prayer (said by all)

Loving God, you have entrusted us with the message of your power, grace, justice, and love. We ask for your guidance, that we may be teachers and learners together. Believing that you are in our midst, we set apart those who would serve in our Vacation Bible School. May they serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are entrusted in their care. Bless each one gathered here, enabling them to be channels of your grace. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor to VBS Teachers and Helpers:

You have recognized God's call in your lives.

Will you endeavor to develop your gifts for teaching so as to continue to pass on the Christian faith?

Will you be faithful to the task, taking seriously the commitment of time and talent?

Will you take seriously your role as learner, studying diligently the Scriptures and VBS lessons for each day?

VBS Teachers and Helpers:

We have heard God's call to teach and lead Vacation Bible School for our church.**We teach, trusting in God's support, sustaining grace and empowerment for this task.****We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit.****We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond to God's call in their lives.****We teach, depending on our church family to uphold us in prayer, love and support.**

All say:

Amen!

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Jeanette Showalter

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

Special Music

How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them - Handel

Brianna Boone, soprano

Sermon

A Lamp Unto My Feet

Dr. Mark Bender

THE RESPONSE

Communion Hymn

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face – vs. 1

No. 416

***Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.***

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution

Sally Hastings

Prayers for the Bread & Cup

Gary Ballard & Kathleen Lauck

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

All believers are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.

I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

THE SENDING

Sent from the Table & Invitation to Discipleship

Dr. Mark Bender

Closing Hymn

O Word of God Incarnate - vs. 1 & 2

No. 322

***O word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.***

***The church from you, our Saviour, received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.
Your word is chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quick sands still guides, O Christ, to you.***

Benediction

Dr. Mark Bender

Postlude

Debbie Watson

MEMORIALS AND HONORS

In memory of Dana Allison given by Larry & Linda Carr.

CCLI License #504653

Sermon Notes

1. Use your words!

2. Love Letters

3. The wisdom of a Torah-oriented life

4. Desiring God

5. Accidental Pharisees

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 25		
8:40 am	Worship Service	Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday School	
9:30 am	Journey Through Scripture	Parlor
10:45 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary/ Livestream
2:00-4:00 pm	Pickleball	Gym
5:00 pm	Youth (Grades 6-12)	Room 403/Gym
6:00 pm	Young Disciples (Grades K-5)	Room 402
Monday, July 26		
7:30 am-6:00 pm	Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)	
9:00-11:00 am	CCF Chapel	Chapel
9:00 am-12:00 pm	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 15	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, July 27		
9:00 am-12:00 pm	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting	Room 310
6:30 pm	Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups Anger Management, Parenting, Rebuilding Your Life, Domestic Violence Prevention	Rooms 304 to 308
Wednesday, July 28		
7:00 am	Elders' Breakfast	Room 405
9:00-11:00 am	CCF Spanish	Room 300
9:00 am-12:00 pm	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Stretch Class	Gym
3:30-5:00 pm	CCF Movie	Room 300
5:30 pm	Brown Bag Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
6:00-7:00 pm	Neighborhood Worship Service	Fellowship Hall
6:00-7:00 pm	First Kidz (PreK-5th Grade)	Room 402
7:00 pm	Youth Activities (Grades 6-12)	Room 403/Gym
Thursday, July 29		
9:00 am-12:00 pm	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	Fellowship Hall
5:30-7:00 pm	VBS Family Night	FH / Outside / Classrooms
Friday, July 30		
9:00-11:00 am	CCF Music	Room 300
9:00 am-12:00 pm	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, July 31		

We're Hiring:

Director of Children Come First

Children Come First is actively seeking a new Director. We are looking for an individual who loves children and has the desire to cultivate a high quality childcare program and environment that partners with families of young children. If you know someone who might be interested, job descriptions and applications are available in the church office and on our website (firstchristianwf.com).

Pantry Sunday—August 1

The August collected item(s) will be: cans of corn & pineapple. You can continue to help keep the pantry shelves filled by: Donating the monthly items or any type of food items directly anytime into the large box on the porch by the Chapel entrance. To support Interfaith with a financial gift, you may mail your donation to Interfaith (1101 11th St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301), or donate on their [website](#).