



ONLY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This Week's Bulletin



Accompaniment Play List and Sermon available on YouTube at

<http://bit.ly/OUMC08-10-2025>

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

⁵ Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death,

Philippians 2: 5 - 11 WEB

yes, the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

INTROIT

"O How I Love Jesus" (UMH #170)

<https://youtu.be/OR5k8kxsKAA>

O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,

O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us a different way to live. You've called us to love one another, and to work together with one heart and mind, balancing our needs with the needs of those around us. Give us courage to follow faithfully, and with integrity – with

actions that bear witness to the words we speak, and worship that overflows into our daily tasks and relationships – so that our lives will bring glory and honor to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

AFFIRMATION

"Affirmation from I Timothy"

UMH # 889

There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in

the flesh, vindicated in the spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

HYMN UMH # 57**"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"²**<https://youtu.be/C8d0PyowZgs>

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

2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

3. 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.

4. He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

5. He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your savior come,
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know,
shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below,
and own that love is heaven.

ANTHEM (Suggested)**"This Is Amazing Grace"**<https://youtu.be/AWLSCaDoM1U>

North Point Worship

SCRIPTURE LESSON**Exodus 17: 1 - 7 WEB**

¹ All the congregation of the children of Israel traveled from the wilderness of Sin, starting according to Yahweh's commandment, and encamped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test Yahweh?"

³ The people were thirsty for water there; so the people murmured against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

⁴ Moses cried to Yahweh, saying, "What shall I do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ Yahweh said to Moses, "Walk on before the people, and take the elders of Israel with you, and take the rod in your hand with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb. You shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because the children of Israel quarreled, and because they tested Yahweh, saying, "Is Yahweh among us, or not?"

JOYS & CONCERNS and MORNING PRAYER

Gracious and eternal God, you poured out your glory in the person of your Son, who emptied himself, took the form of a servant, and humbled himself even to the point of death on a cross. Today we come before you

with minds renewed by Christ's example, seeking to adopt his attitude of humility and obedience.

Lord Jesus, you who were exalted by the Father above every name, teach us to count

others more significant than ourselves. Help us set aside selfish ambition and vain conceit, that in our words and deeds we might reflect your self-giving love. Enable us to serve one another with the same compassion and grace with which you serve us.

Holy Spirit, empower this congregation to live in unity, cherishing one another in humility. Where there is pride, sow humility. Where there is division, bring reconciliation. Where there is weakness, grant your strength. May our lives bear witness to the power of Christ's

humility and the glory to which you have raised him.

We lift before you those in need of comfort, healing, and hope. May your love sustain the weary, your peace calm anxious hearts, and your joy renew every spirit. Use us, O God, as instruments of your grace in our community and in the world.

All glory and honor belong to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

May the mind of Christ dwell richly within us, now and always as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray...

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 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.

HYMN UMH #170

"O How I Love Jesus"

<https://youtu.be/v0B8VTLEFQw>

1. There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

**O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!**

2. It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. (Refrain)

3. It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. (Refrain)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21: 23 – 32 WEB

²³ When he had come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority do you do these things? Who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, which if you tell me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

They reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all hold John as

a prophet." ²⁷ They answered Jesus, and said, "We don't know."

He also said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸ But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first, and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind, and went. ³⁰ He came to the second, and said the same thing. He answered, 'I'm going, sir,' but he didn't go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said to him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Most certainly I tell you that the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering into God's Kingdom before you. ³² For

John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn't believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him.

When you saw it, you didn't even repent afterward, that you might believe him.

MESSAGE

"Don't Let Your Goodness Get in the Way"

Rev Jim Canody

<https://bit.ly/Sermon08-10-2025>

There is a story about a group of military leaders who succeeded in building a supercomputer that was able to solve any problem large or small, strategic or tactical. These military leaders assembled in front of the new machine for a demonstration. The engineer conducting the demonstration instructed these officers to feed a difficult tactical problem into it. The military leaders proceeded to describe a hypothetical situation to the computer and then asked the pivotal question: attack or retreat? This enormous supercomputer hummed away for an hour and then printed out its one-word answer . . . YES.

The generals looked at each other, somewhat stupefied. Finally, one of them submits a second request to the computer: YES WHAT?

Instantly the computer responded: YES, SIR.

The Pharisees, like these generals, were accustomed to people saying "Yes, sir" to them. They were the religious authorities. They were used to being treated as such. But there was a new teacher in town, a teacher who was threatening their authority. The Pharisees were alarmed. They feared Jesus' popularity, his ability to heal and to perform miracles. In their eyes, Jesus was preaching heresy and leading people away from the religious traditions that defined the Jews. The Pharisees wanted to expose him as a fraud.

It was in this context that Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, "Son, go and work today in the vineyard."

The boy immediately said, "No." Later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to his other son and said the same thing. This one answered, "O.K." but he never got out to the vineyard. Then *Jesus asked a simple*

question: "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Then Jesus delivered the punch line, *"I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him."*

That really was a punch line ... a punch in the guy line ... and *the Pharisees were the ones who were punched*. I imagine Jesus heard some gasps and "How dare he!" from the crowd that day. It was unthinkable to compare the righteous Pharisees to blatant sinners like the tax-collectors and prostitutes. Didn't he know that the Pharisees were too good to be lumped together with the likes of them? Didn't he know that only those people with the right "credentials," so to speak, would make it into the Kingdom of God? What was Jesus talking about and why was he severely criticizing the best people in town?

Jesus is talking about God's amazing, inclusive, and shocking grace!

Jesus is showing people a whole new view of God that breaks down the boundaries of everything they think to be true. Jesus is talking about what types of people are acceptable to stand before a holy, holy, holy God. And he passes over the religious professionals in favor of the worst of sinners. Has he lost his mind? Or could it be that our self-righteousness doesn't earn us many points with God? Maybe God isn't a Cosmic Scorekeeper, tallying up our moral hits and misses. Maybe we don't have to earn God's love. Because maybe God loves us even when we fail.

There was a young boy named Caleb who loved playing outside – mud puddles, tree climbing, soccer in the rain. Every evening, his clothes were a mess. His mother, without fail, would gather his dirty laundry, wash it, fold it, and place it neatly in his room. One day, Caleb decided he wanted to help. He tried to wash his own clothes – dumped detergent everywhere, overloaded the machine, and ended up with a sudsy disaster. His mom walked in, smiled, and said, “Sweetheart, I love that you want to help. But you don’t have to earn clean clothes. That’s my job. I do it because I love you.”

That’s grace.

We’re often like Caleb – trying to clean ourselves up, earn God’s favor, prove we’re worthy. But grace isn’t a reward for effort. It’s a gift from a loving Father who says, “You don’t have to earn this. I’ve already done the work.”

Just like Caleb’s mom didn’t wait for him to be spotless before she loved him, God doesn’t wait for us to be perfect before He pours out His grace. He meets us in our mess, washes us clean, and calls us His own.

God’s arms are open to everyone, from every race and nation and tribe and tongue, from every walk of life, from every circumstance.

We’re really missing something extraordinary when we put boundaries on God’s grace.

In the Pharisees minds, God only had regard for that which was perfect, unblemished, without defect. They had reduced God to our level. The Pharisees had no concept of God’s grace ... God’s love for all God’s children, even those who were tarnished with sin.

Jesus said to them, *“I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”*

Jesus is telling the people that NO ONE Is Excluded from the Kingdom of God, Not Even a Pharisee.

He said that the tax collectors and the prostitutes would enter the kingdom before they did. The tax collectors and the prostitutes didn’t carry the baggage of religiosity. All they knew was that they were forgiven and washed clean. Jesus simply widened the boundaries of the kingdom. Of course, the Pharisees were part of it, but so were the people that the Pharisees would never accept as equals. The Pharisees wanted a kingdom that was reserved for themselves and their kind. Jesus wanted a kingdom that was big enough for everybody.

In 1962, James Meredith made civil rights history as the first Black student ever to enroll at the University of Mississippi. This simple act inspired vicious race riots in the surrounding town, but Meredith didn’t let it intimidate him. Four years later, in a bid to inspire Black citizens in the South to vote, James Meredith planned a walk from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi. He carried nothing but a walking stick and a Bible. The 220-mile walk was an effort to show that a Black man could walk freely through the South. As Meredith commented, “I was at war against fear.”

On the second day of his walk, however, James Meredith was ambushed by Aubrey James Norville, a Memphis hardware clerk. Norville shot him four times and left him to die in the middle of the road. Incredibly, Meredith survived the shooting.

And then a remarkable thing happened. As he recuperated in the hospital, dozens, then hundreds, then thousands of people gathered to continue his walk from Memphis to Jackson. On the last day, a recovered James Meredith marched into the Mississippi state capitol but instead of just one marcher as originally planned ... now there was 12,000 marchers who accompanied him.

I believe that is what the kingdom of God will be like. One man was slain on a cross. And that

started a parade. At first only a few were brave enough to join in, but that few grew to hundreds, then thousands, then millions. Among these people are a few righteous souls. But these few righteous are outnumbered by the thousands, no, millions of persons, who have not been all they might have been, or should have been, but they've been healed by the wounds of their Master.

The kingdom of God has come ... that was the central message of Jesus' earthly ministry. The kingdom of God is marching forward, and nothing can stop its forward momentum,

nothing can prevail against it, not "*even the gates of Hell*". And you have a front-row invitation to be a part of it. This is the greatness of God's grace: salvation cannot be earned; it is a free gift of love offered to all who will accept it.

Don't let your goodness get in the way of Jesus' righteousness.

Don't let your piety overshadow Jesus' sacrifice.

Believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior and claim your place in the Kingdom of God today.

Amen. ✚

HYMN UMH #580

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

<https://youtu.be/GzIponYvF30>

1. Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation
thy grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal,
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might

BENEDICTION

Go now to will and to work for God's purposes. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. Be filled with the same love and look to the interests of others. And may God quench your thirst with love and consolation; May Christ Jesus strengthen

you and encourage you; And may the Holy Spirit lead you on and make your joy complete. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. AMEN.

RESPONSE

"O How I Love Jesus" (UMH #170)

<https://youtu.be/ng5-Du-ezbw>

O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,

O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!

^{1,3,5.} **O How I Love Jesus**, UMH #170, O How I Love Jesus UMH#170, Author: Frederick Whitfield, Words & Music © Public Domain

² **O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**, UMH # 57, Author: Charles Wesley, Tune: Azmon, Arranger: Lowell Mason, Composer: Carl G. Glaser © Words & Music Public Domain

⁴ **Lead On, O King Eternal**, UMH #580, Author: Ernest W. Shurtleff, Composer: Henry T. Smart, Copyright: Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Reid Beck (Aug. 5)
Briggs Marsh (Aug. 5)

Michael Kennedy (Aug. 18)
Jim Canody (Aug 24)
Annie Beck (Aug. 28)

George McMath (Aug. 28)
Scarlet Jefferson (Aug 30)
Kristina Savage (Aug. 31)



Jimmy & Lynn White (Aug. 1)
Tony & Jeanette Edwards (Aug. 26)



Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 14 @ 7 pm
Fellowship Hall



Thank you for your dedication to the ministries of Onley UMC! We greatly appreciate your gifts, tithes, and prayers. Your contributions are important to the life and mission of OUMC. **Checks, made payable to OUMC should be mailed to: Onley UMC, P. O. Box 216, Onley, VA 23350**

Camp Occohannock



THANK YOU! It was a great summer camp season!! **Thank you** for your prayers & support – this vital ministry on the shore wouldn't be possible without the support of our churches! **We're already looking ahead to the Fall Jr High Retreat!**

WISH LIST:

You can help by supporting the camp with donations to their wishlist (craft items, snacks, tools, furnishings, activities, etc) found on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/4kKl8qG>

OUR PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS from August 3, 2025

- The United States of America, other countries around the world, and our leaders
- War-torn areas including Ukraine, Israel & the Middle East
- Americans serving in the armed forces and in dangerous foreign diplomatic posts.
- Our missionary in Cambodia, Clara Mridula Biswas.
- Persecuted Christians
- The United Methodist Church and The Virginia Annual Conference
- Members in assisted living: Dottie Milliner

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Dick Jenkins | • Linda Beasley | • Betty Turington |
| • Alma Reed | • Don Bowling | • George McMath |
| • Rose Dryfus | • OOTB Campers & Staff | • Bobby Wood |
| • Norman Bowling | • Mary Paul Harmon | • Rosilee Lewis |
| • Camp Mystic | • Susan Nottingham | • Elmer Reed |
| • The flooding in Texas | • Crystal Foti | • Dianne Nickel |
| • Nancy Bisker | • Peggy Byrd | • Travel Mercies |
| • Jake Canody | • Tom and Claudia Webb | • Our World & its leaders |
| • Ken Spain | • E. A. McMath | • Strife in the Middle East |
| • Susan Fletcher | • T.K. Fitchett | • Unspokens |

✠ *Special prayers for the family and friends of:*

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| • <i>Lorrida Cord</i> | • <i>Roger Weinheimer</i> | • <i>Pati Beck</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|

Please share your joys and concerns
with Pastor Jim at :
jimcanody@vaumc.org or
call 703-861-2023

KEEP IN TOUCH

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