



*September 18, 2022*



**Rev. Lura Kidner-Miesen, Pastor**  
**Rev. Bill Hays, Guest Pastor**

**Eric McKirdy, Organist & Music Director**

# Centering Thoughts

You [God] have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?  
Then my enemies will retreat in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.

—Psalm 56:8-9

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for  
sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

—Psalm 126:5-6

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with  
mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and  
merciful....

—Joel 2:12-13

For I wrote to you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain,  
but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

—St. Paul, Second Corinthians 2:4



# Welcome!

## Prelude

### **Invitation to Worship** (attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)

Gail Case

May God bless you with discomfort,  
at easy answers, half-truths,  
and superficial relationships  
so that you may live  
deep within your heart.

#### **God, help us accept your blessings**

May God bless you with anger  
at injustice, oppression,  
and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for  
justice, freedom and peace.

#### **Living Christ, help us to see as you see**

May God bless you with tears,  
to shed for those who suffer pain,  
rejection, hunger, and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand  
to comfort them and  
to turn their pain to joy.

#### **Holy Spirit, fill us with your Love for all creation**

And may God bless you  
with enough foolishness  
to believe that you can  
make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do  
what others claim cannot be done,  
to bring justice and kindness  
to all our children and the poor.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Hymn:** *O God Our Help in Ages Past*

UMH #117

**Scripture:**

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Luke 7:36-47

**Message:** "Give the Blessing"

Rev. Bill Hays

**Hymn:** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

TFWS #2158

**Prayer**

Rev. Bill Hays

## The Lord's Prayer

**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:** *It Is Well with My Soul*

UMH #377

## Closing Blessing

## Postlude



## Announcements:

~ We welcome Rev. Bill Hays to the pulpit today. Pastor Lura is on vacation through October 5. Rev. Joe Medley will preach on September 25, and we'll sing our favorite hymns for Music Sunday on October 2.

~ Articles for the church newsletter, Tower Notes, are due Monday, September 19.

~ Our congregation partners with God's Heart so they can cook a hot meal in our kitchen and take it to those who are unhoused. God's Heart also provides people with basic needs such as clothing. You may donate through our church website at [albanymethodist.org](http://albanymethodist.org) or by noting on your check that it is for "God's Heart."

## Contact Information:

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~ The church office is open Tue, Wed, Thur: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ~