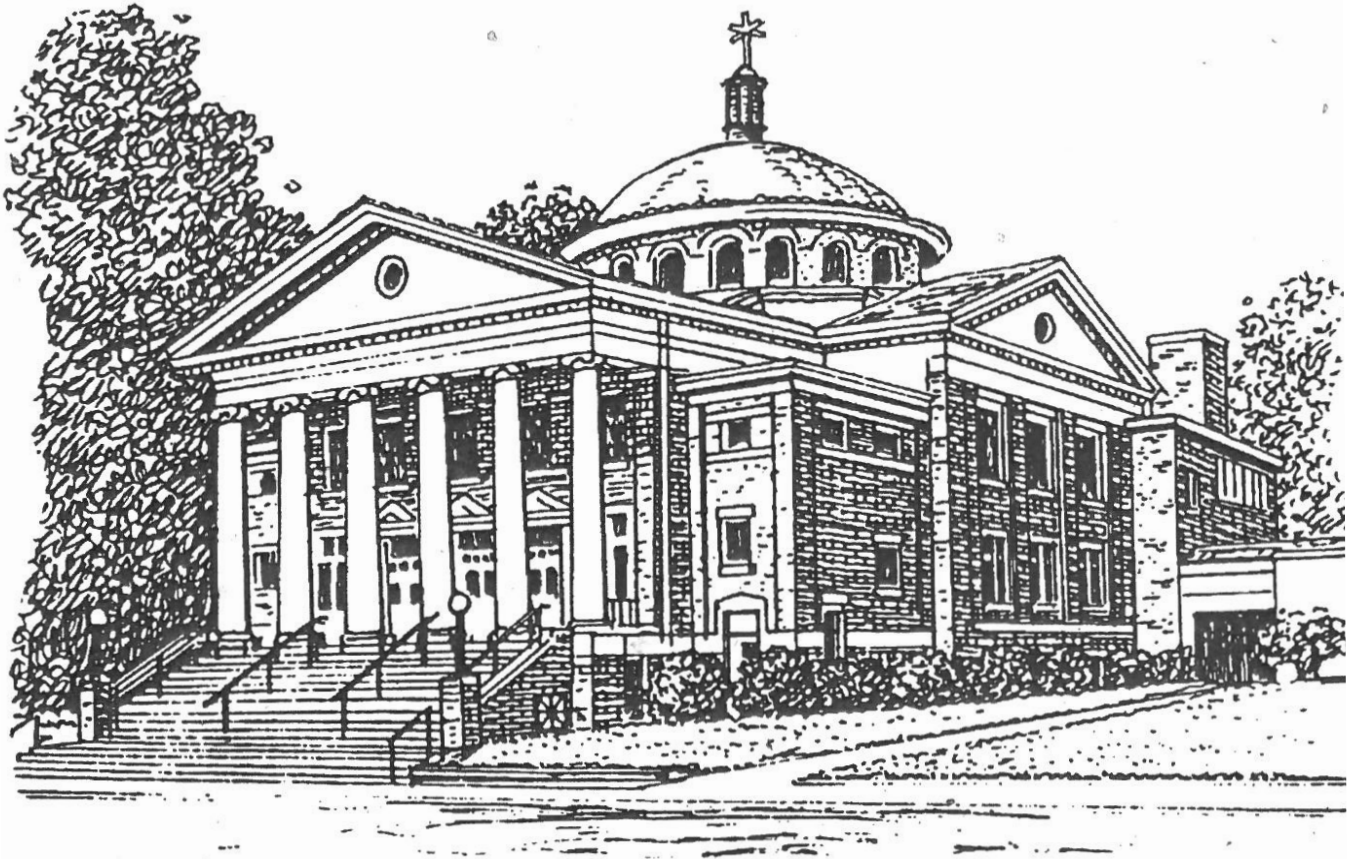




*First United
Methodist Church*

Conway, AR



The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
Back To School Sunday
August 17, 2025
11:00 a.m.

1610 Prince Street, Conway, Arkansas, (501) 329-3801, conwayfumc.org

Welcome to First United Methodist Church. Please accept this invitation to participate fully in worship and give glory to God.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE WELCOME

Prelude	<i>Aria in Classic Style</i>	Marcel Grandjany (1891-1975)
----------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------

The Call to Worship

Officiant We do not gather in vain,
People **for God is working in our hearts.**
Officiant The love of Jesus Christ calls us together.
People **Our worship strengthens and empowers us**
Officiant to share the gospel.
People **The love of Jesus Christ shines in our lives.**
Officiant Proclaim the good news with boldness.
People **The love of Jesus Christ is at work in the world!**

Hymn 724 On Jordan's stormy banks I stand *Promised Land*
Sung by all, standing.

All sit.

The Confession and Pardon

All

Almighty and most merciful God, you know the thoughts of our hearts. We confess that we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have transgressed your holy laws. We have disregarded your Word and Sacraments. Forgive us, O Lord. Give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things, that, being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, and from henceforth may ever walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All pray in silence.

Officiant

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

<i>Reader</i>	The word of God for the people of God.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25 UMC Hymnal 756, Antiphon No. 2

The Psalm antiphon is sung first by the choir, then by all.

Hymn 733

Marching to Zion

Marching to Zion

Sung by all, standing.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 21:25-36

Pastor The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon *Living Counterculturally in the Light of the Coming Christ*

The Affirmation of Faith, UMC Hymnal 889

The Blessing of Backpacks

All children, youth, and teachers are invited to come forward.

Officiant

As you come forward, you will receive a squishy bumble bee key chain. On it, you see, Micah 6:8 which says, “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” As you are at school, remember that God calls you to BEE kind! When you are kind, God is seen, known, and given glory!

While you are at school, may this remind you to walk with God as you journey to and from school each day.

I invite you to place your hand on your backpack/bag and another hand on a neighbor’s shoulder so we might all be connected as you receive this blessing.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant

God, we thank you for the gift and ability to learn and for being with us in any excitement and any fear we carry into the new school year. Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day.

All

We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates, and friends. Bless our school board representatives and parents who advocate on our behalf. Bless the administrators and volunteers who help us learn and grow in this world. Bless these children, as they enter new schools, new classrooms, and new spaces. Guide them by your love.

Officiant

God, bless these backpacks, bags, and everything that is in them: Bless the pens and pencils for creating new things, the erasers that remind us that it's okay to make mistakes, and the notebooks, folders, tablets, and laptops waiting to be filled with all there is to learn.

All

You have asked us to be kind: to seek justice, offer mercy, and walk humbly. Grant us the courage to do your will as we live out our faith each and every day. Amen.

Acknowledgement of Volunteers

All who volunteer in service to children and youth in the parish, please stand.

Concerns and Prayers

Officiant Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

All

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 for ever. Amen.

The Offering

Music at the Offertory A Medley of Hymns Eleanor Fell
(b. 1944)

You may give in these ways:

Text "Give" to 501-500-5335

or place cash or a check in the offering plate

or scan the QR code.



As the offering is presented the following hymn is sung by all:

Hymn 70

Meineke

**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.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

THE SENDING FORTH

Hymn 338

Where he leads me

Norris

Sung by all, standing.

The Dismissal with Blessing

Officiant The peace of Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Response

Be thou my vision

Rhett Barnwell

Postlude Little Prelude & Fugue in F, BWV 556 Joh. Seb. Bach
(1685-1750)

Memorials

*To the glory of God in memory of
Marette Stiritz
by David & Pebble Sutherland*

The Officiant

Rev. Miranda Hornsby

The Preacher

Rev. Nathan Kilbourne

Reader

Isaiah Smittle

Harp

Colleen Thorburn

Trumpet

Will Parrack

Organ

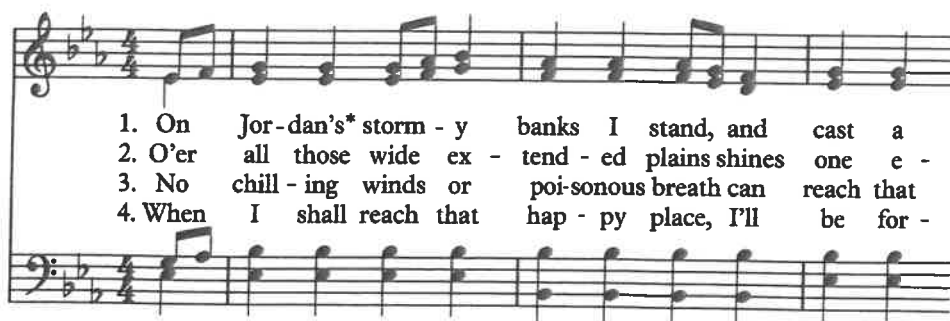
Jason Saugey



PLEASE RECYCLE!

You are encouraged to take your worship booklet and announcement sheet home with you, but if you do not, please discard them in one of the blue recycling bins located near the Sanctuary doors!

724 On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand



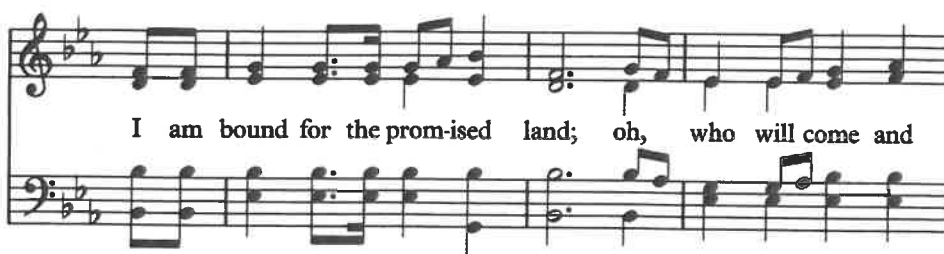
1. On Jor-dan's* storm - y banks I stand, and cast a
 2. O'er all those wide ex - tend - ed plains shines one e -
 3. No chill - ing winds or poi-sonous breath can reach that
 4. When I shall reach that hap - py place, I'll be for -



wish - ful eye to Ca-naan's fair and hap - py land, where
 ter - nal day; there God the Son for - ev - er reigns, and
 health - ful shore; sick - ness and sor - row, pain and death, are
 ev - er blest, for I shall see my Fa-ther's face, and



Refrain
 my pos - ses-sions lie.
 scat-ters night a - way. I am bound for the prom-ised land,
 felt and feared no more.
 in his bo-som rest.



I am bound for the prom-ised land; oh, who will come and

*Pronounced "Jerdan's"

WORDS: Samuel Stennett, 1787

MUSIC: *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. by Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1895

PROMISED LAND
 CM with Refrain

go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come 725

Unison

1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come, un - fold - ing
 2. A - bove earth's val - leys, thick with night, high on your
 3. From walls sur - pass - ing time and space un - num - bered
 4. The sounds of vi - o - lence shall cease as dwell - ings
 5. The danc - ing air shall glow with light, and sun and

cit - y of our dreams. On dis - tant hills a glo - ry
 walls the dawn ap - pears, and his - to - ry shall dry its
 gates, like o - pen hands, shall gath - er gifts from all the
 of sal - va - tion rise to spar - kle in e - ter - nal
 moon give up their place, when love shines out of ev - ery

gleams: the new cre - a - tion has be - gun.
 tears, as na - tions march to - ward your light.
 lands and wel - come all the hu - man race.
 skies from av - e - nues of praise and peace.
 face, our good, our glo - ry, and de - light.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1986 (Is. 60:1-3)
 MUSIC: Vernon Griffiths, 1971

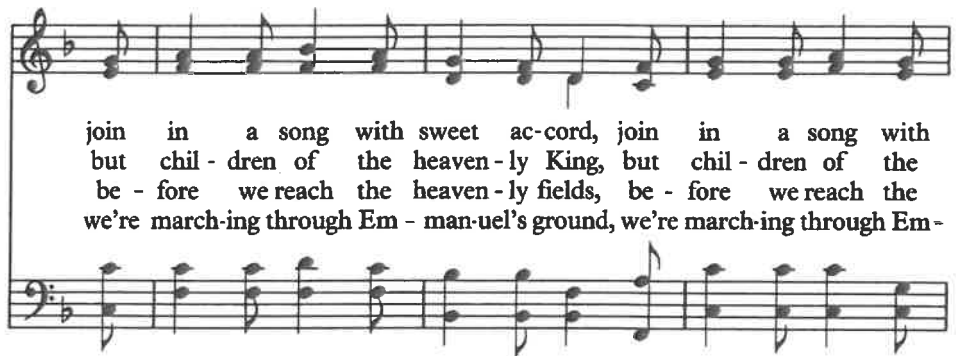
DUNEDIN
 LM

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1971 Faber Music Limited

Marching to Zion



1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4. Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heaven - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heaven - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Em -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and
 heaven - ly King may speak their joys a - broad, may
 heaven - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to

thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur -
 speak their joys a - broad, may speak their
 walk the gold - en streets, to walk the
 fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707; refrain by Robert Lowry, 1867
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1867

MARCHING TO ZION
 SM with Refrain

Refrain

thus sur-round the throne. We're march - ing to Zi - on,
 speak their joys a - broad.
 walk the gold - en streets. We're march - ing on to Zi - on,
 fair - er worlds on high.

round the throne.
 joys a - broad.
 gold - en streets.
 worlds on high.

beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on; we're march-ing up-ward to

Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.
 Zi - on, Zi - on, the

1. God for - gave my sin in Je - sus' name, I've been
2. All power is given in Je - sus' name, in

born a - gain in Je - sus' name, and in Je - sus' name I
earth and heaven in Je - sus' name, and in Je - sus' name I

come to you, to share his love as he told me to.
come to you, to share his power as he told me to.

Refrain

He said, "Free - ly, free - ly you have re - ceived,

free - ly, free - ly give. Go in my name, and be -

WORDS: Carol Owens, 1972 (Mt. 10:8; 28:18-20)
MUSIC: Carol Owens, 1972

FREELY, FREELY
99.99 with Refrain

© 1972 Communiqué Music, Inc.



Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive 390

1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," you
 2. How can your par - don reach and bless the
 3. In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
 4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: what triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in

grant us grace to live the words we say.
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us, how great our debt to you!
 bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

WORDS: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1966 (Mt. 6:12)

MUSIC: *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; harm. by Gerald H. Knight, 1980

DETROIT
CM

Words © 1969, 1983 Rosamond Herklots, by permission of Oxford University Press; harm. © 1980 Hope Publishing Company