

COVENANT CHURCH OF THOMASTON

We exist to:
Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ
Share Life with Each Other
Reach the World in His Name



September 15, 2024

Worship 10:00 am

**“The Power of Vulnerability in the Love of Christ”
Philippians 2:3-9**

Pastor:

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PRELUDE Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

WELCOME AND LIFE TOGETHER Ken Hopkins

CALL TO WORSHIP O Come to the Altar
Are you hurting and broken within,
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling.
Have you come to the end of yourself?
Do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling.

(chorus) O come to the altar.
The Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes.
Come today; there's no reason to wait. Jesus is calling.
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy.
From the ashes a new life is born. Jesus is calling. *(chorus)*

(instrumental)

(bridge) Oh, what a Savior! Isn't he wonderful?
Sing hallelujah! Christ is risen.
Bow down before him, For he is Lord of all.
Sing hallelujah! Christ is risen.
(repeat bridge) (chorus)(chorus)

(tag) Bear your cross as you wait for the crown.
Tell the world of the treasure you found.

Words and music by Mack Brock, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick and Wade Joye
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Graves into Gardens

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough.
Then you came along and put me back together,
And every desire is now satisfied
Here in your love.

(chorus) Oh, there's nothing better than you.
There's nothing better than you.
Lord, there's nothing; nothing is better than you.

I'm not afraid to show you my weakness,
My failures and flaws – Lord you've seen them all,
And you still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place your mercy and grace
Won't find me again. *(chorus) (chorus)*

(bridge 1) You turn mourning to dancing. • • • •
You give beauty for ashes. • • • •
You turn shame into glory. •
You're the only one who can. *(repeat bridge 1)*

(bridge 2) You turn graves into gardens. • • • •
You turn bones into armies. • • • •
You turn seas into highways. •
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can. *(chorus) (chorus)*

(bridge 2) (tag) You're the only one who can.

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PRAYER OF ADORATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD (Congregation reads **bold**)

Psalms 25:8-15 Peggy Schwetz

Good and upright is the Lord;

Therefore, he instructs sinners in his ways.

He guides the humble in what is right

And teaches them his way.

All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful

Toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

For the sake of your name, Lord,

Forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Who, then, are those who fear the Lord?

He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.

They will spend their days in prosperity,

And their descendants will inherit the land.

The Lord confides in those who fear him;

He makes his covenant known to them.

My eyes are ever on the Lord,

For only he will release my feet from the snare.

Hymn # 83

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

OFFERING – GIVE AS THE LORD LEADS YOU, WITH OPEN HANDS AND ALL YOUR HEART Ken Hopkins

Offertory: Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

Doxology (blue hymnal #48 (Congregation sings **bold**))

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come as You Are

SERMON

Rev. John F. Udochi

“The Power of Vulnerability in the Love of Christ”

Philippians 2:3-9

- The Paradox of Vulnerability
- The Misunderstanding and True Meaning of Love
- Jesus Christ: The Embodiment of Vulnerable Love
- Vulnerability: A Pathway to Authentic Love
- The Danger of Selfish Ambition and Vain Conceit
- The Example of Christ: Humility and Obedience
- Embracing Vulnerability in the Love of Christ

Other references: Philippians 2:1-2 (p. 1672)

Galatians 5:22-23 (p. 1663)

SENDING SONG

Goodness of God

I love you, Lord, for your mercy never fails me.

All my days, I've been held in your hands.

From the moment that I wake up, till I lay my head,

I will sing of the goodness of God.

(chorus) All my life you have been faithful.

All my life you have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able,

I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love your voice. You have led me through the fire.

In darkest night, you are close like no other.

I've known you as a father; I've known you as a friend.

I have lived in the goodness of God *(chorus)*

(bridge) Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me.

Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now,
I give you everything.
Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me
(chorus) (bridge) (chorus)

(tag) I will sing of the goodness of God.

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BENEDICTION

Rev. Udochi

POSTLUDE

Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

TODAY

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Nursery: Courtney Ayer

4:00 pm Ice Cream Social & Registration for Sunday school
and youth programs

- **Pastor Stephanie** is at the Women's Retreat, which ends today, at Pilgrim Pines.
- **Our Speaker** this morning is the Rev. John F. Udochi. He is the Training Pastor of the New York Covenant Church (NYCC), and is also an Attorney at Law. As the Training Pastor and leader of the Justice Institute, he designs the training curriculum for NYCC ministries. He also leads the Love Mercy Do Justice Team and contributes to the annual Coalition Justice Conference, educating on issues of justice that affect our society. He attended Nyack College—Alliance Theological Seminary. He and his wife Abbe have two children.

THIS WEEK

Mon. 10:45 am 39ers Study (Fellowship Room)
6:30 pm Zumba (Potter's House)
6:30 pm Tres Dias Secretariat (Fellowship Room)
Tue. 6:30 pm Prayer (Church Office)
Wed. 6:30 pm NA (Fellowship Room)
Fri. 6:00 pm Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)
6:30 pm Tres Dias Secuela (Fellowship Room)
Sat. 9:00-4:00 Private Meeting (Gathering Room)

10:00 am "Chosen" Group (Fellowship Room)

Sun. 9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees (Potter's House)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- **Ice Cream Social and Youth Program Registration.** Come back this afternoon at 4:00 pm to the Fellowship Room to register your children for Sunday School and the youth groups.

LAY READERS

- **A new schedule** for lay readers is being prepared for October and the months following. If you would like to be added to the rotation, contact Ruth Johnson.

QUARTERLY MEETING CHANGE

- The date for the Quarterly meeting of the congregation is postponed to October 13, 11:30 after worship in the Sanctuary.

NEW SMALL GROUP

- Pastor Stephanie will be leading a new small group study on Tuesday mornings, at 9:30 in the Potter's House, beginning October 1. We will be using the book Gospel Identity - Discovering Who You Really Are, by the ministry Serge. The paperback workbook is available on Amazon or at christianbook.com. Contact: Pastor Stephanie or Cathy Fredlund.

GIVING MADE EASY

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