

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.

Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "The Abundant Life" Parker

Call to Worship (from Mark 8: 27-30)

Jesus asks the disciples:

"Who do people say I am?"

They answer, "Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah; and others say one of the prophets." But Jesus presses them:

"Who do you say I am?"

Peter answers, "You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!"

Now Jesus pushes us: "What about you? Here, in this moment, in this community,

Who do you say I am?"

Where do we find the wisdom to answer?

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

Holy Wisdom of God You call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, and Spirit create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the

ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Proverbs 1:20-33 (New Revised Standard Version)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Faith Formation Moment

Fall Programming starts today: (See bulletin insert for full details)

Call to Confession

+ Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we have gathered here in your name; yet we confess, it might not be according to your word. Sometimes we get so caught up believing in you we forget to follow you. Sometimes our love of discernment gets in the way of our need for discipleship. Help us, Lord Jesus not to simply be believers in your word, but doers of your word. Amen.

+ Assurance of Grace

God's words and actions are never careless; in sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and a companion, a source of ever-flowing love and acceptance and wisdom. By God's unrelenting grace, I say to you in the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

In Christ we are forgiven all our failings, and given strength to start again. Thanks, be to God, Amen!

Special Music "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Karen Stafford, pianist

Second Reading of Scripture Mark 8:27-38 (Common English Bible)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

