

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND DOXOLOGY

THE COMMUNION

Invitation to Discipleship Matthew 25:37-40

Jesus teaches that by feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, and visiting the sick and imprisoned, we serve Christ himself. We are a Matthew 25 presbytery; chances are, your church is already helping build vitality, dismantle racism, or eradicate poverty. Consider becoming a Matthew 25 church and share in this vital mission and common purpose.

HYMN "Jesus Be with Us Today" (M25 hymn by Gambrell)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

"We truly grateful for your time and effort. Thank you."

Becca Putman, teaching elder, Westminster, Gainesville.

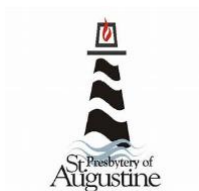
Steve Crowley, ruling elder, First Palatka

JoAnn Dyson, teaching elder retired, Ocala

Don Johnson, teaching elder, Woodlawn, Jacksonville

May the peace of Christ

be with you.



The Worship of God May 13, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come as you are, broken and burdened,

People: and find healing in God's goodness.

Leader: Come as you are, gifted and beloved,

People: and find purpose in God's calling.

Leader: Come as you are, weary and worried,

People: and find comfort in God's embrace.

Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

People: and worship God with joy!

HYMN "In Christ There Is No East or West" Hymn #317

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: Loving Creator, you breathed life into us through your Word of truth;

People: We were formed in your image, children of all colors and backgrounds.

Leader: The destructive poison of racism has caused your beloved to suffer.

People: We confess that we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Prejudice, discrimination, and hatred have spawned brokenness, violence, and even death. We have permitted the sin of racism to divide us through what we have done and left undone; we have harmed others through both our words and our silence. Grant us courage to repent, to stand for justice, and to truly love and embrace one another.

Leader: Merciful God, cleanse our hearts as we seek forgiveness.

Receive our silent prayers of confession...

(silent prayers)

L: Friends, the saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

P: Thanks be to God!

(Confession by Rev. Rhea Summit, Pastor, New Alexandria UMC
(adapted))

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 7:9-17

SERMON

“Crying out with a loud Voice”

Becca Putman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(From the Confession of Belhar, excerpted)

We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.