



United Presbyterian Church  
1701 E. Second Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2023

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

812-332-1850

[www.upcbloomington.org](http://www.upcbloomington.org)

**United Presbyterian Church**  
September 24, 2023 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**      **Reverend Cheryl Montgomery**

*Prelude in E Major BWV 854 – J.S. Bach* ( Benjamin Watkins, piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 105, Matthew 20)

Deacon Andy Hill, liturgist

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Lord.

**People: Call on God's holy name.**

Liturgist: Sing praises to our God.

**People: Tell of God's wonderful works.**

Liturgist: The Lord offers bread from heaven to satisfy our hunger.

**People: God issues water from solid rock to quench our thirst.**

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Lord.

**People: Let everything that draws breath praise God.**

**\*Opening Hymn**      *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* #446



**PASSING OF THE PEACE** (liturgist & congregation)

Liturgist: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share the peace with one another.

MUSIC for MEDITATION

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

Members of the UPC Quartet

Call to Confession

God's Word assures us: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

**God of infinite patience, we turn complaining into an Olympic sport: "The journey is too long. The road is hard and our feet hurt. We're hungry and bored. This isn't what we signed up for!" You've heard it all before, faithful One. You'll hear it all again. Yet, you never forsake us in our grumbling. Forgive us, we pray. Shower us with your manifold blessings and open our lips to sing songs of gratitude. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## ASSURANCE of PARDON

Liturgist: Rejoice, you who seek the Lord. Count your blessings, not your troubles. For in acts of gratitude, you will find peace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**



First Reading *Exodus 16: 2 - 15* (Pew Bible p. 54; large print p. 108) – Liturgist  
 Second Reading *Philippians 1:21-30* (Pew Bible p. 894; large print p. 1807) – Liturgist  
 Gospel Reading *Matthew 20: 1– 16* (Pew Bible p. 753; large print p. 1519) – Pastor

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

SERMON            *Mercy and Grace*            Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**— The Apostle's Creed (traditional) led by Rev. Montgomery  
**I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*Gloria Patri.*

#579

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



## CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* Members of the UPC Quartet

*\*Doxology*

#592

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

**\*Closing Hymn** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* #281

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

**POSTLUDE** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

\*Please stand if you are able

**UPC Prayer List** - Email requests to: [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com).

Shea Henry Olivia McKenzie Kathleen Olds Rev. David Rosen Patti Spir Anita Steverson

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

Our military men and women around the world

Student's returning to elementary, middle and high school, university and grad school

The people of Ukraine The people of Maui

Our military men and women stationed around the world

**Memorial Presbyterian Church** in Rockville, continues to be a blessing in the hearts of its members and regular attendees. We are small in number but strong in our love of God. Recently we found written minutes going back to 1836. Reading the history of the faith of our fathers reminds us that Jesus has been walking with us on our daily path for a long time here in Rockville and centuries in other communities. The stories that we uncovered were sweet and true. Their trust and our trust in the power of Jesus in our lives has brought solace and awe to us for over 150 years. We cherish our history and are equally hopeful for our future. Our greatest assets are the faithful of Trinity Parish and the love we have for one another. We have a choir that brings joy to our shared worship services with the congregations of United Presbyterian Church in Clinton and Second Presbyterian in Montezuma. We are currently without a minister and our elders have stepped forward as we seek a path forward. We regularly contribute to the Parke County food pantry and hope to work closely with our community's efforts in creating more child care options for families.

**United Presbyterian Church Staff**

Pastor – Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

(317) 260-7378 – [pastor.upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.upcbloomington@gmail.com)

Secretary – Allen Pease – office (812) 332-1850; cell (812) 325-7849

Treasurer–Andy Hill [andy@andyhill.us](mailto:andy@andyhill.us)

Music Director – Benjamin Watkins – (864) 980-7731

[btwatkin@iu.edu](mailto:btwatkin@iu.edu)Christian Education – Melanie Mathis-McBride – [susieq\\_msm@yahoo.com](mailto:susieq_msm@yahoo.com)