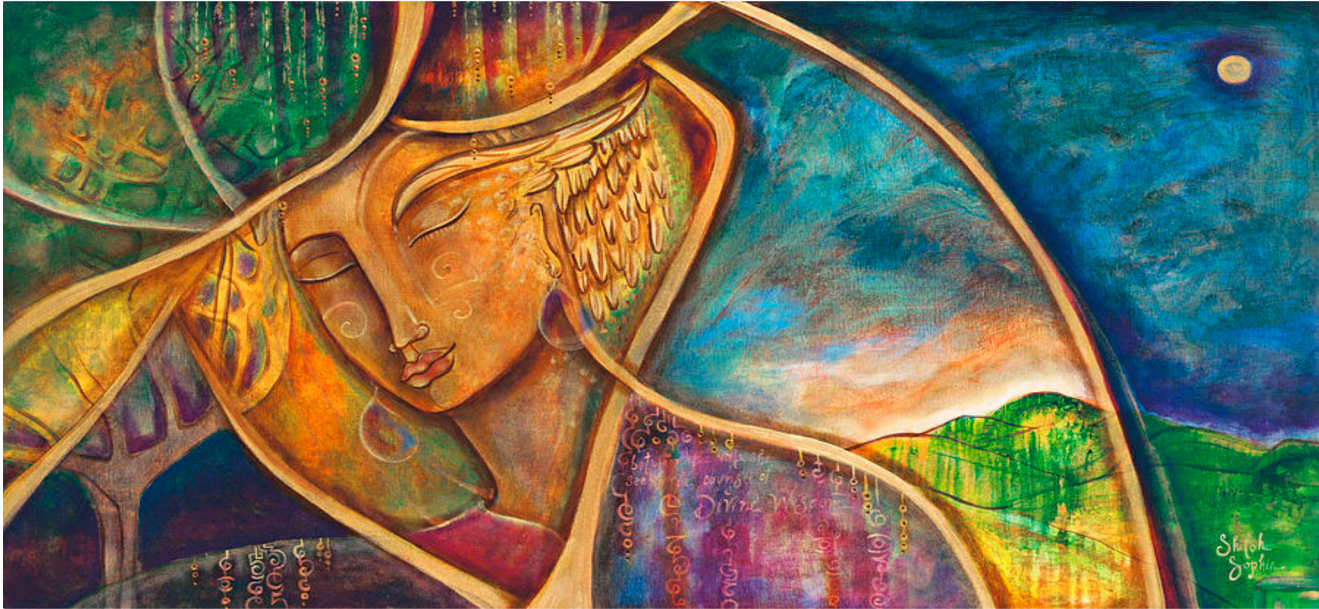


Festival **WORSHIP**

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



UNITED CHURCH *of* **CHAPEL HILL**

A PLACE *of* BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRELUDE *Sarabande (Land of Rest) from Suite for Organ* Gerald Near

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Wisdom cries out to us. She raises her voice!

May we have ears to hear.

She pours out her thoughts to us. She makes her words known!

They set our minds on divine things.

She says, “God is making foolish the wisdom of the world!”

Then may we be holy fools!

She says, “Those who lose their life will save it!”

Then may we be holy losers! And unashamed!

For there is no worldly gain worth a forfeited life.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of holy fools, may we throw off the world’s wisdom in favor of divine folly. For you have chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, what is weak in the world to shame the strong, and what is low and despised in the world so that no one may boast. Forgive us when we choose the world’s wisdom over your foolishness, the world’s strength over your weakness, the world’s cherished gains and high places over your lowliness in Christ Jesus, the Holy Loser. May we take up the foolishness of the cross and follow you. For in Christ’s solidarity unto death we find a life worth living and a world turned toward your justice. Amen.

HYMN *Take Up Your Cross* BOURBON

LESSON PROVERBS 1:20-33; MARK 8:27-38

Gabrielle Sielken

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Send in the Clowns*

Rev. Ian McPherson

OFFERING

An offering will be collected by the Deacons during the anthem.

ANTHEM *Will You Come and Follow Me* KELVINGROVE

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Oh Praise God, Alleluia. Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.

Creator Christ and Holy Ghost, Oh Praise God. Oh Praise God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*All rise for the presentation of the offering and join in **by signing** as the choir sings the doxology.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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, for ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This is the Lord's table....Together we lift our voices in thanksgiving and praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from the north and south

And from the east and west

To sit at Christ's table.

Let us proclaim together the great mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Al Post Comunio* Domenico Zipoli

WELCOME & THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*



SERVICE NOTES

CHOIR: Treble Ensemble; Charlotte Carter and Gabby Sielken, solos

ORGAN: Renee McBride

DOXOLOGY ASL: Kaselehlia Sielken

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Jennifer Anderson

LITURGIST: Gabrielle Sielken

REFRESHMENTS: Fellowship Board

FLOWERS: Flower Committee

COVER ART: Divine Wisdom, by Shiloh Sophia McCloud

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ALL ARE WELCOME HERE