

*Hymn	Lift Every Voice and Sing	UMH 519
Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.		
Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; We have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered, Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.		
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.		
*Affirmation of Faith:	The Preamble as Prayer <i>(This historic text becomes a liturgical confession and aspiration)</i>	adapted by Jerry Jones
Leader: “We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...”		
People: God of all people, we confess how far we are from your perfect union. Heal our divisions, and teach us to belong to one another.		
Leader: “...establish justice...”		
People: God of justice, where we have been silent in the face of injustice— forgive us. Where systems oppress and exclude— transform us. Make us people who hunger and thirst for righteousness.		
Leader: “...insure domestic tranquility...”		
People: God of peace, where violence has scarred our communities— have mercy. Where fear divides neighbor from neighbor— give us courage to love.		
Leader: “...provide for the common defense...”		
People: God of refuge, protect the vulnerable. Guard those who live in fear. Teach us that true security is found in justice and compassion.		
Leader: “...promote the general welfare...”		cont.

People: God of abundance, forgive us when prosperity has been hoarded by some while others struggle to survive. Open our hands to share your gifts.		
Leader: “...and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity...”		
People: God of freedom, when liberty has been denied— to enslaved peoples, to indigenous communities, to those segregated or forgotten— we remember and we repent. May freedom be for all, not just for some.		
Leader: “...do ordain and establish this Constitution...”		
People: God, above all human authority, write your law of love upon our hearts, that we may live as your people, for the sake of the world. Amen.		
Old Testament Scripture	Exodus 16:31–36	OT pg. 63
Prayer	I pledge allegiance to the lamb with all my strength, with all I am I will seek to honor His commands, I pledge allegiance to the Lamb	
Offertory	<i>Let Freedom Ring</i> Mr. John Jones	by Bill and Gloria Gaither
*Doxology	Glory be to the Father And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be World without end, Amen, Amen	UMH 70
New Testament Scripture	Matthew 14:17–19	NT pg. 20
Message	<i>From Desolation to Abundance</i>	Rev. Jerry Jones
Holy Communion	A Service of Word and Table II	UMH 12
<i>Corporate Prayer of Confession</i>		
Merciful God, we confess that as a people we have sinned against you and against one another. We have told stories that hide truth. We have benefited from systems that harm others. We have chosen comfort over justice, silence over courage, division over love. We remember the wounds of this land— slavery and racism, violence against indigenous peoples,		
		cont.

fear of the stranger,
and the many ways we continue to fall short
of your dream for humanity.
Forgive us, O God.
Not to erase the past,
but to transform our future.
Form us into a people who seek justice,
love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

Communion Anthem

Communion
Ella Ingram

Brooke and Scott Ligertwood, Jason Ingram

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

UMH 378

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

***Benediction**

May the God who made all nations
bless you with a restless heart for justice.
May Christ, who proclaims liberty to the captives,
lead you into the truth that sets all people free.
And may the Holy Spirit make us a people of love—
so that in our life together, others may glimpse a more perfect union
in the kingdom of God.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace

Reverend Jerry Jones, Pastor

Roberta Bishop Knight, Worship Director

3425 N. Ocoee Street Cleveland, TN 37312 423-476-4504 www.clevelandumc.com



First United Methodist Church

Cleveland, Tennessee

Building a community of grace, well grounded in the Bible and spiritually connected in Christ,
worshiping God and serving others to fulfill our mission together.

July 5th, 2026 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

Invocation

Gracious and Holy God,
You are Lord of all nations and Lover of every soul.
In you, all people are created equal in dignity and belovedness.
We give thanks for the gifts of this land—
for freedom we have known,
for communities we cherish,
for the ways your grace has sustained us through generations.
Yet we come also with honest hearts,
knowing that we have not always lived into the vision we proclaim.
So meet us here—
shape us by your truth,
humble us by your mercy,
and renew us in your love.
Through Jesus Christ,
who proclaims good news to the poor
and sets the captives free.

Amen.

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 33 & Isaiah 58)*

Leader: Blessed are the people whose hope is in the Lord.

People: We gather to seek God's face for our land.

Leader: Not to celebrate power, but to seek justice;
not to glorify ourselves, but to remember God's mercy.

**People: We come with gratitude and with truth,
with hope and with humility.**

Leader: Let us worship the God of every nation,
whose desire is for justice, peace, and the flourishing of all.