

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS – October Dates**

Nov. 2 – All Saints Sunday – Holy Communion; We have an open table,  
meaning all are welcome to participate.

Healthy Snacks and Discussion after worship:  
Session 2 on “Biting the Hand”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Psalm 65, selected verses*

*The whole world stands in awe  
of the great things that you have done.*

**O God, it is right for us to praise you  
and keep our promises to you.**

**HYMN:** All Creatures of Our God and King 62

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *(by dwh)*

Gracious God, in wisdom you created all things, and  
your Son promised that your Spirit would guide us still.  
Through these words of scripture today,  
show us what is true; guide us for living,  
that we may bring honor and praise to you. Amen

**SCRIPTURE:** **Joel 2:23-32**  
*The Holy Spirit is promised... for “all flesh”.*  
**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**  
*“The Lord stood by me and gave me strength”*  
**Luke 18:9-14**  
*A Parable: Two different people went to pray.*

**CONFESSION**

*TMO/PO*

*Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
Let us open ourselves in this time of prayer,  
being truthful in our confession  
as we humble ourselves before our God.*

**Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling.  
You send us messengers, and we sidestep them;  
you challenge us, and we defend ourselves.  
Again and again, Holy God,  
we resist what we do not want to hear.  
And yet you keep calling.  
Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions.  
Softened what pride has hardened in us.  
Let us hear and receive your truth. Amen.**

**Silent Prayers**

*Rom 8; and 2 Cor 5*

*Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?  
Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us,  
and he is sitting in the place of honor  
at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

**Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.  
The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  
Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 139

**SERMON**

**HYMN:** Near to the Heart of God 472

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** 895

**BRINGING OUR GIFTS** *dwh*

*Out of gratitude for all that God has already done,  
and with hope for all that God will yet do,  
we bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us.*

**DOXOLOGY**Now Thank We All Our God**102**

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

**PRAYER**

unison

FotW

**God of creation, you water the earth and send forth food;  
you shower us with grace and feed us with your love.  
Accept these gifts, humble though they may be, & use them  
to spread your goodness throughout the earth;  
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN:**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**110****DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

(Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-18)

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*Go out into the world, and labour to bring forth new life.  
Dream dreams, pursue visions and speak of God's goodness  
in the words of those who would hear.  
And may the God who breathed life into creation be your delight.  
May Christ Jesus give hope to your dreaming,  
and may the Holy Spirit, your advocate and supporter,  
.....set your hearts ablaze with a passion for peace.*

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**500****Bulletin Credits:** Some of the Liturgy is by the pastor (dwh)

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<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

or from Feasting on the Word (eg FotW – see also insert)

or authors who have posted with Presbyterian Outlook

(This week's contributing author is Teri McDowell Ott: TMO/PO)

or other sources as noted.



**October 26, 2025**  
**Reformation Sunday**

**Clarksburg United Methodist Church**

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland  
<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>  
website: <https://clarksburgmdumc.org/>  
Accompanist: Rick Beede  
Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

**Pastor: Rev. David Hodsdon**➤ **Cell Phone: 240 676 7825**➤ **Email: [revdwhodsdon@gmail.com](mailto:revdwhodsdon@gmail.com)**[facebook.com/david.w.hodsdon](https://facebook.com/david.w.hodsdon)

## **Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures**

*As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary*

**Year C – Season After Pentecost – October 26, 2025**

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### **Scriptures**

|                       |                                                       |                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Semicontinuous</i> | <b>Joel 2:23–32</b>                                   | <b>Psalm 65</b>     |
| <i>Complementary</i>  | <b>Sirach 35:12–17 or<br/>Jeremiah 14:7–10, 19–22</b> | <b>Psalm 84:1–7</b> |
| <i>both</i>           | <b>2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18</b>                         | <b>Luke 18:9–14</b> |

### **Questions for Reflection:**

The author of Second Timothy declares, “I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (4:7).

What does that look like in your life?

How does your church keep the faith,  
even in the face of all the world’s challenges?

What is prayer?

When we hear the prayers of the two men in the temple,  
what does Jesus’ appreciation of the tax collector’s prayer  
tell us about the purpose of prayer?

### **Morning Prayers:**

God of light, thank you for another day.  
With each hour, may I be watchful for signs of your grace,  
ready to show your love,  
and eager to tell the good news of Jesus Christ.  
Make me more faithful than I was yesterday,  
and lead me in the paths of righteousness. Amen.

Living God, you have made this day bright  
with the promise of your presence  
as you crown each moment with hope.  
Let your Holy Spirit pray in us now,  
that in all our tasks  
— at home, at work, at school, and in our community—  
we may express the joy you have in us.  
Be our peace, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Evening Prayers:**

Thank you for the challenges and blessings of this day, O God.  
If I kept faith with you, thank you for your Spirit’s help.  
If I looked away from you, turn me back around.  
As night falls, I relinquish my pride and my fear  
and entrust all whom I love to your care,  
with prayers for a peaceful rest;  
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

God of endings and beginnings,  
who calls us to work and to rest,  
we thank you for the joys and struggles of this day.  
Teach us to come to a fuller knowledge of your will in our lives,  
that each moment might be a sign of your love for us.  
Take us now into your arms that in your safekeeping,  
we may sleep and be renewed.  
We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.