**ST. JOHN’S and ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 29, 2025**

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beckoning God, as you moved in the lives of Elijah and Elisha, move in our lives, inviting us to journey to unknown territory, to listen for your voice, and to speak your prophetic word.

**All: In a world that does not want to hear, empowered by your Spirit, grant us the courage we need to journey, trust, listen, speak, and accept your commission to be your faithful servant people. Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love and strengthen our lives for service in your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn #473 Blessed Assurance

Scripture Reading Joan Bender

1 Kings 19:15-21 NRSVUE

15Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

Elisha Becomes Elijah’s Disciple

19So he set out from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. 20He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijahsaid to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” 21He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah and became his servant.

Luke 9:51-62 NRSVUE

A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus

51When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, 53but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55But he turned and rebuked them. 56Thenthey went on to another village. 57As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” 60And Jesussaid to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

THE MESSAGE

SONG ON MONITORS It Is Well (Caleb & Kelsey)

Pastoral Prayer (Joys and Concerns)

Lord’s Prayer (unison)

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: What can we offer, O God, when we reflect on all you have given us in Jesus Christ

**All: We will offer our time, talent and treasure, committed to the One who gave all for us. Amen**

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD #625 (While the offering is brought forward)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, you heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

RESPONSIVE OFFERTORY PRAYER

One: You are the source of change for good, Living God.

**All: Through these gifts, you bring help to the distressed; through our prayers, you bring hope alive; through our words and actions, you encourage the suffering and oppressed. Bless us, bless our gifts, as your love goes to work. Amen**

HYMN #28 For the Beauty of the Earth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BENEDICTION

One: Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet not walked, through perils unknown Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your had is leading us and supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

\*POSTLUDE