



Parable of the Sower, Study. Wayne Forte

We welcome all guests worshiping with us today. Today is the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. The season of Ordinary Time refers to the Sundays of the year that fall outside the periods of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The word Ordinary refers to the ordinal numbers of each Sunday as we count the weeks between the Church's seasons. Ordinary time can be understood in terms of living out of the Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in our day-to-day life. The color green represents the life and growth of the church and its ministry.

Worship care for preschool children and infants is offered during this hour in the children's building. Large print hymns and T-coil access are available at the back of the Sanctuary. An usher can assist you with these and any other needs you may have.

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Greenleigh Blackmon and Emeline Pratt

PRELUDE

“Adoration”

by Florence Price

Rebecca McClain, Organ

GREETING

Kendra Plating

INVOCATION

CHORAL INTROIT “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” arr. Austin Lovelace

*HYMN 372

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE’S

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION ☩

Amy Stertz

God, you are always speaking, but we confess that we often miss it.

You visit the earth and make it abundant;

yet in our distractions, we do not notice.

We scurry by the singing mountains and the clapping trees.

We let the seed you scattered be choked by untended gardens, thinking
“I’ll do it later.”

So many things demand our attention.

With our worry, fear, hunger, and desires,

You too often get lost in the noise.

We confess that the voices around us are often much louder,

But we know that your voice is the one that leads us to life.

Yet, even in the noise, You keep speaking. You keep calling us near.

Help us to listen.

Help us to quiet our hearts.

Help us to tune our lives to your word.

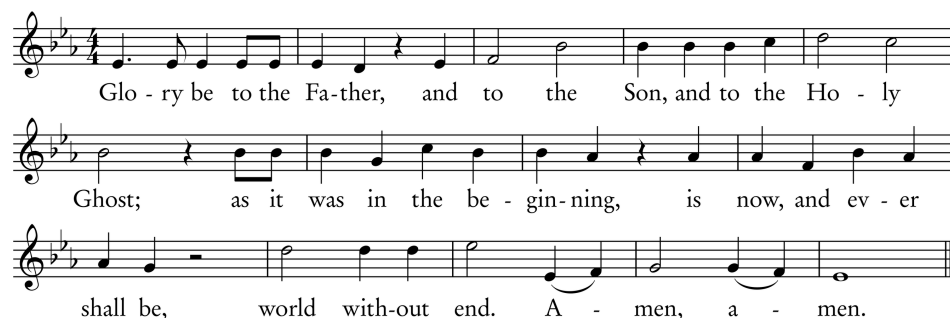
Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

“Glory Be to the Father ”

GREATOREX



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

*SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you.
 And also with you.

PROCLAIMING

PSALM LESSON Psalm 119:105-112 Paula Garrett

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM “For the Beauty of the Earth” by John Rutter
The text may be found on page 341 of the hymnal

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Alyssa Gordon
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Beyond Failure" Doug Murray

*HYMN 376 “For the Fruit of All Creation” AR HYD Y NOS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Casey Callahan

PRAYER RESPONSE 38 “Thy Word” THY WORD
Please remain seated to sing - Verses will be provided by a soloist

OFFERTORY SENTENCES Beverly Pennell
Food and Advocacy

[illegible]

*HYMN 707 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise

God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise

God, a - bove ye heaven - ly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN 545

“In the Bulb”

PROMISE

SENDING FORTH

CALL TO COMMUNITY

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again” by Thomas Tomer

*POSTLUDE

“Prelude in Classic Style”

by Gordon Young

*Those who are able please stand.

✠ Karis Worship resource

Worship leaders include guest proclaimer Rev. Doug Murray; organist Rebecca McClain; Lay Reader Alyssa Gordon; Deacon of the Week Sandra Frempong; and the Adult Choir.

This morning’s art is *Parable of the Sower, Study*, by Wayne Forte. Oil and acrylic on canvas, 2012. Wayne Forte is a Filipino-American artist and educator based in California. He layers images, text, and objects, linking personal history with Biblical narrative in a stream of consciousness. He has taught at Biola University, Gordon College, and the Orvieto campus in Italy. Wayneforte.com; Instagram: [@thefortestudios](https://www.instagram.com/thefortestudios).

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PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Justin Addington

Pastor of Music and Worship

Dr. Casey Callahan

Coordinating Pastor

Ms. Mae Craig

Summer Youth Intern

Dr. Mack Dennis

Senior Pastor

Dr. Paula Garrett

Pastoral Resident

Dr. Kendra Plating

Interim Pastor of Congregational Care

Rev. Amy Stertz

Pastor of Christian Formation and Children



THIS WEEK

Bible Study
Today at 9:45 a.m.

Summer Choir
Today at 10:20 a.m.

**FirstShine Meet &
Greet Meeting**
Today at 2:00 p.m.

**AFTA Staff
Classical Recital**
Today at 6:00 p.m.

Pick Up Basketball
Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Yarn Birds
Wednesday at
2:00 p.m.

Free Market
Thursday
at 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME

July 12, 2026

If you are a guest with us today, greetings! We joyfully proclaim the sacred worth of all people and welcome you with glad hearts. Please complete the "Connect with Us" card from your pew, and place it in the plate during the Offertory. We would love to connect with you.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The Academy for the Arts invites you to enjoy performances by its talented faculty this summer. Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. in Crouch Chapel for the Classical Music Staff Recital, and mark your calendar for the Traditional Music Staff Recital on July 19. We hope you'll join us for these special evenings of music.

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Sandra Frempong

PASTOR ON CALL

Casey Callahan

JULY SUMMER SCHEDULE

July 12	AFTA Staff Classical Recital
July 19	AFTA Staff Traditional Recital
July 19-24	Overnight Helene Team (Wilmington)
July 26-31	Overnight Helene Team (Lexington)
July 27-30	FirstShine Summer Camp



TO
GIVE
ONLINE

FBCA.NET
828.252.4781
5 OAK STREET
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801



Advocacy Kids Camp

FirstShine Meet and Greet

Today * 2:00 p.m. * 4th Floor Youth Room

Today at 2:00 p.m., FirstShine Camp volunteers will gather with our campers and their families for a Meet & Greet. This special time gives us the opportunity to get to know one another, build new friendships, and begin preparing for a wonderful week of camp that begins on July 27.

Summer Choir

Sundays in July & August * 10:20 a.m. * Crocker Auditorium

Our Summer Choir meets Sundays in July and August at 10:20 a.m. in Crocker Auditorium to prepare a simple anthem for that day's worship service. No robes are required! It's a great opportunity to try choir, whether you're new or returning, and to meet and sing with our new Pastor of Music and Worship.

Farmworker Community Mission Trip

November 10-14, 2026

This fall, we'll return to Immokalee, Florida, to partner with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel Rick Burnett and local organizations *Cultivate Abundance* and *Misión Peniel* in serving the migrant farmworker community. Volunteers will help with gardening, harvesting, organizing, and distributing resources. To join the trip, sign up in ENews or contact the church office.