

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS – On Track With Jesus August 18, 6-8 p.m. One Night Only! [Register here.](#)

Sunday School for all ages – September 12. Join us for breakfast at 9:15 a.m.

[Preregister your kids here.](#)

Volunteer to feed kids in our neighborhood during the summer. Join us at Emmanuel UMC, Cumberland, Thursdays at 8 a.m.

Create beautiful embroidery with other creators! Meetings once a month. Only \$35 / month for lessons. Contact Dot Leasure for more details.

Check out our [NEW Facebook page](#) at LaVale United!

Questions? Call the church office (301) 722-6800.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Give thanks to God!

We thank God for joy, for laughter,
for abundant blessings of every kind.

Give thanks to God

at all times and for everything!

We thank God, when we can and as we can,
for struggles, for solitude, for fears.

Give thanks to God

at all times and for everything

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God that, in Christ,
our joys as well as our pain,
our losses as well as our laughter,
are in God's heart and hands.

Written by Thom Shuman

PRELUDE/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, we thank you today for your goodness. You have given us beautiful days. You bless us richly with goodness daily. We thank you and praise you.

We live in a time of considerable confusion. We ask today for your wisdom as Solomon asked for wisdom.

We are often fearful as was Solomon. We live in a time of peril, war, and world unrest. Different and competing interests strive for our attention and loyalty. Help us, O God, to pray for wise and discerning spirits.

Give us wisdom to know good from evil.

Give us wisdom to assess the clamoring voices and concerns with which we are daily bombarded.

Give us wisdom so that we might learn to be accepting of all the diverse people you have created.

Give us wisdom to be peacemakers and mediators of understanding where there is conflict.

Give us wisdom when we are in conflict to make it possible both for us and for those with whom we differ to save face and win and move forward hand in hand.

Give us wisdom not to violate any of your creatures by discriminating against them.

Give us wisdom to discern what is of ultimate value for our souls and to make wise choices.

O God, give us wisdom.

O God, give us discernment.

O God, give us the will to be faithful.

O God, give us the power to love. Amen.

Written by Richard Einerson in Prayers of the People: Pastoral prayers for Worship and Personal Devotion, Bloomington, AuthorHouse, 2006.

***OPENING HYMN** - Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Verse 1

There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord
There are sweet expressions on each face
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord

Chorus

Sweet Holy Spirit
Sweet heavenly Dove
Stay right here with us
Filling us with Your love
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise
Without a doubt we'll know
That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place

Verse 2

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe
You're the one to profit when you say
I am going to walk with Jesus all the way

Verse 3

If you say He saved you from your sin

Now You're weak you're bound and cannot enter in
You can make it right if you will yield
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel

CCLI Song # 18204

Doris Akers

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SCRIPTURE READING - Ephesians 5:15-20

5:15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,

5:16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

5:17 So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

5:18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit,

5:19 as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.

5:20 Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON - Bryce Bridges

Having Faith in God

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God, our time in this life is limited, and our days are numbered. Yet you have reminded us that if we are wise and use that time well, you have an eternity waiting for us that is beyond our imagining. Help us to focus on what we have, and what we can share, and how the gifts we offer this day can bless others until we are joined with them and your children give you their thanks and gratitude for the rest of eternity. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (

***CLOSING HYMN** - You Are My Hiding Place

Chorus

You are my hiding place

You always fill my heart

With songs of deliverance

Whenever I am afraid

I will trust in You

Bridge

I will trust in You

Let the weak say I am strong

In the strength of the Lord

CCLI Song # 21442

Michael Ledner

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***BENEDICTION**

Go forth into the world trusting with your hearts
the wisdom God bestows upon all who seek to follow God's will.
When called to lead, do so with humility and confidence in God.
Be in this world a sign of Jesus' presence.
Share compassion with all whom you encounter.
Live wisely in God's name,
and glorify God in all you do.

And may the grace, mercy and wisdom of God
be our support, guidance and strength
from this day forward and for ever more. Amen.

From Wisdom Quest, written by the Rev. Dr. Bertrice Wood.

***POSTLUDE**

***DISMISSAL**

* Indicates congregation standing