

**Living God, with your power and vision, we can prevail against the powers of death and the forces of destruction; we can escape the raging waters and survive the damaging storms. Lift us up from our weariness and hopelessness, and save us from the temptation to conform to the powers-that-be. By your powerful and life-giving name, renew our minds and our lives, that we may stand against the gates of the underworld. Amen.**

## Dana Moody



*The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God by Mildred Walling  
in memory of her husband, Julian Walling.*



*August 27, 2023 ~ 11:00 A.M.*



**Holy and living God, you promise that our minds, so easily molded in the ways of our world, can be transformed in your grace, and that our lives may be renewed in this transformation. Open our minds, imaginations, hearts, and wills, that we may be made new as beloved members of your Church. Amen.**

**TFWS #2237**

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.
2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.
3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

**People:** God of mercy and grace, it is hard to hold onto hope. We see people handed over as food for the enemies' teeth, or as prey for the hunters' traps. Sometimes we are the food and the prey. Sometimes we are the enemy and the hunter. Sometimes we are merely bystanders, too afraid or powerless to act as we should. Forgive us, O God, when we accept things as they are.

Lay Reader: Jesus promised that the gates of the underworld would not be able to stand against the Church. Each of us is part of this Church, this body of Christ. Each of us has unique gifts and our own unique calling. Know that through God's mercies, you are forgiven. Know that God will bless you with new imaginings, new thoughts, new hopes, and new courage, that we too may stand against the gates of the underworld.

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## CHANCEL CHOIR

## Matthew 16:13-20 [CEB]

Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**- Rev. Ned Alderman**

## #555

- Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

**Members of the Church**

**Nursery Care Providers: Debbie & Ron Repko**

**Lay Reader: Brenda Swoope**

**Organist/Director of Music: Dana Moody**

**Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope**

**Audio-Visual Operator: Rob Castellow**

**Facebook Live Recorder: Bright Tsevi**

**Greeter: Joanne Rooks**

**Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman**

**Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance**

**Financial Secretary: Edna Bess**

**Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Cecelia R. Brooks**

**Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson**