



“Belief in Books: The Runaway Bunny”

**September 13, 2020**

Online greet time 9:15 a.m., worship begins at 9:30 a.m.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

**Faith United Methodist Church**

1530 Oakdale Avenue  
West St. Paul, Minnesota 55118  
651-457-5686 - Website: [www.faithumcmn.com](http://www.faithumcmn.com)



*We hope in this time you will experience God's love and grace.*

## Gathering and Praise

### Prelude

#### Choral Call to Worship “Be Still and Know That I Am God”

FWS 2057

*Be still and know that I am God, Be still and know that I am God.*

### Call to Worship

*One: Where could I go to get away from your spirit?  
Where could I go to escape your presence?*

**Many: If I went up to heaven, you would be there.  
If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!**

*One: If I could fly on the wings of dawn,  
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—*

**Many: even there your hand would guide me;  
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!**

*One: If I said, “The darkness will definitely hide me;  
the light will become night around me,”  
even then the darkness isn’t too dark for you!*

**Many: Nighttime would shine bright as day,  
because darkness is the same as light to you!**

### \*Hymn of Praise “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

UMH 384

### Opening Prayer

**Many: Holy One, you see us for just who we are,  
and yet you love us with a parent’s love.  
In your enduring love for us,  
we see both our guilt and our acquittal.  
Gracious God,  
continue to guide us and teach us to walk in your ways.  
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

### Special Music

#### Back to School Blessing

*One: As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us all the ability  
to learn many things in many ways. We learn in school, and also in church, in our  
family, in our community, and in the world.*

**Many: Learning is a gift from God.**

*One: We ask God’s blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we  
appreciate and fully engage God’s gift of learning.*

**Many: We ask God to bless our schools and teachers.  
We ask God to bless our classmates and friends.  
We ask God to bless our principals, counselors, and librarians.  
We ask God to bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to  
school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.**

*One: We give thanks to God for books and computers and all the tools that help us learn.*

**Many: We give thanks to God for the gift of learning!**

*One: Let us pray:*

**ALL: Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both,  
and especially so this year.**

**Sometimes school is great, and sometimes it's hard.**

**But we know that whether we are excited or scared, you are with us.**

**We know that whether school is great or hard, you are with us.**

**Thank you for always being with us.**

**Help us remember we are loved no matter what.**

**Help us do our best and help us show others**

**your love in all we say and do each day. Amen.**

## **Proclaiming the Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Reading – *The Runaway Bunny***

**Hymn of Preparation “I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry”**

FWS 2051

**Scripture Reading**

**Hosea 11:1-11**

**Contemporary Witness “Belief in Books: The Runaway Bunny” *Rev. Marianne Ozanne***

## **Responding to the Word**

**Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 887

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Many: 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;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Gathering of our Tithes and our Offerings**

**The Doxology**

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Many:** All we have and all we are comes from you, O God,  
our Father, our Mother, our Creator, our Sovereign.  
If we were to give thanks until the end of time,  
we could not repay your benevolence and grace.  
Take these meager offerings, we pray,  
and increase our generosity, that everything we say and do  
might show forth your irrepressible love.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

UMH 521

Benediction

Choral Benediction

“The Trees of the Field”

FWS 2279

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the tress of the field will clap, will clap their hands.  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, XX  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, XX  
the trees of the field will clap their hands XX while you go out with joy.*

Postlude

— Worship is over. The service begins. —



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Call to Worship: Psalm 139:7-12 Common English Bible

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