



**\*HYMN: "Something Beautiful"**

**UMH 394**

Something beautiful, something good  
All my confusion He understood  
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife  
But he made something beautiful of my life

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Loving Shepherd, pour your grace upon us this day.  
Seek those who are wandering and lost, for they too need your grace.  
For you know when we are wandering, and you know when we are lost.  
You know when we have sinned, and when we have forsaken your call.  
Forgive us and bring us home.  
Reclaim us and make us your own.  
For you are our shepherd and we are the sheep of your pasture.  
For this grace and mercy, we are ever grateful. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Rejoice, God has changed our circumstances for the better!  
Christ's mercy and grace redeem us and bring us home.  
We who were lost have been found.

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-10**

**15** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her

friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE: "Thy Word" (refrain only)

UMH 601

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path***

**MESSAGE: Written by Cary Brown**

**GIVE THE GIFT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN**

God is so gracious and so generous and so good to us!! In fact, most of the time, we don't even see the gifts he gives us.

On this anniversary of 9-11 and the horrendous tragedy that hit our country, we pray for those who lost their lives – in the tragedy and because of it since then – and their families and friends. So many people did not recognize the gift of a traffic jam that would make them late to work. So many people did not recognize the gift of not feeling well so didn't go to work in the towers that day. So many people did not recognize the gift of whatever it was that kept them from being in the towers that morning. And then there is the gift of the bravery and selflessness of the firemen and police and others who helped people out of the towers or the Pentagon. God took care of so many people in so many different ways that day and since then.

Many years ago my goddaughter Meghan, who means the world to me, asked me to crochet a teddy bear for her for Christmas. She picked out the pattern and of course it was a complicated one! Can't tell you how many hours I put in making that teddy bear for her – but she was and is so worth it! A couple of months later I was visiting at their home and there was a big pile of things in the corner of my room where I was sleeping meant for a garage sale. And on top of that pile was the teddy bear.... Yep, it hurt.

God works so hard to give us gifts! How many "teddy bears" has he made for us and we've discarded or ignored those gifts? We have so many gifts and talents – God-given to us to use for others and we hoard that gift. We hide them because we are afraid of what people will think of us. Not what God wants. God's mercy is ours – no matter how sinful we have been/are. We refuse to accept that gift because we, in our pride, think we are not worth it. Not what God wants. God puts so many different people in our lives to help us and enrich us in so many different ways. We ignore others because they are "different" – race, culture, abilities, economics, etc. etc. – and refuse to take advantage of the ways they can enrich our lives! Not what God wants.

But we sure get our backs up and our anger and hurt in full bloom when someone ignores or throws away a gift we try to give them. And it all becomes about us and what we want and our pride and our selfishness.

God has given us so much! We could easily come up with a list of at least 100 things right now that God has given us – our heart, ability to breathe, see, smell, hear, touch, walk, etc. etc. etc. Not to mention his mercy and his forgiveness and his amazing unfathomable love.

Because God has given you so much, what are you giving to others. God has forgiven you, who are you forgiving? God is accepting you as you are, who are you accepting as they are? God gives us what we need when we need it, what are you giving to others when they need it?

God has given us gift after gift after gift. Give the gifts you have been given.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD:**

The shepherd is searching,  
**That all may be found.**  
Grace is flowing,  
**That all may find their way home.**  
Love is waiting,  
**To welcome us into the arms of God.**

**HYMN: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" TFWS 2193**

*Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

SHARING OF OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS:  
SILENT PRAYER...PASTORAL PRAYER...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

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, now and forever. Amen.

**OFFERING:**

\*DOXOLOGY:

*UMH 95  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

Thank you, generous God of grace, for pouring your love and abundance so freely upon us.  
Pour this same love and abundance upon the gifts we now return to you,  
that they may become signs of grace and instruments of love to bring the world back home to you. Amen.

**\*BENEDICTION:**

My friends, go into the world:  
knowing that it is God who loves us,  
Christ who strengthens us,  
and the Holy Spirit who empowers us, for service.  
Go in peace and joy!

**AMEN**

**\*BENEDICTORY RESPONSE: "Grace Alone"**

**TFWS 2162**

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,  
Every difference we will make is only by his grace.  
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,  
Every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.  
Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go for in grace alone.

Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,  
Everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.  
Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away,  
every sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace.

Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.  
Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go for in grace alone.

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANIVERSARIES (Week of September 11)**

11– James Engle

11 – Matt & Katie Ehrp – Anniversary

12 – Toni McAleer

13 – John McCleary

13 – John Hendrickson

**TODAY, Sept. 11, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:45 – Worship

10:30am – Coffee Fellowship

**TUESDAY, Sept 13**

7pm – Leadership Board

**THURSDAY, Sept 15**

9am – 1pm – Circuit mtg. (Pastor)

1:30pm – Schaller Crestland Ministerial Association (Pastor)

**NEXT SUNDAY, Sept. 18, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9am – Sunday School

9am – Coffee Fellowship

9:45am – Worship

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School begins next Sunday – September 18 at 9am. Please notice the change to Sunday School BEFORE Worship! Also please note that Coffee Fellowship is also moved to before Worship.

**INGATHERING:** It's time to start gathering things for our Ingathering projects – Student Kits and Personal Dignity Kits. Lists of items needed for the kits can be found in the narthex.