

## Worship for September 19

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Our world offers many wide avenues  
and beautiful boulevards to walk;

**Our God invites us to walk the road  
of service and sacrifice.**

Our society suggests we put down our roots  
in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

**Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope,  
watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

Our culture promotes achievement, success,  
climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

**Our God tells us if we want to be first  
we need to go to the end of the line.**

Thom Shuman

**OPENING MUSIC – *Der Dichter Spricht (The Poet Speaks)*, Robert Schumann  
Michael Parker, piano**

### SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess how much we are like those first disciples of Jesus. Our  
cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the fall winds. We boast  
of our great wisdom, yet do not understand your ways of peace and gentleness.  
We do not plant ourselves in your hope and grace, and so reap harvests of  
disorder and conflict.**

**Draw near to us, Gracious God, and forgive us. Draw us into your tender arms,  
and teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom  
to serve instead of seize so we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness,  
justice, and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Thom Shuman

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

**HYMN – *Now Thank We All Our God*, Hymn 643**

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION - video from Cindy Lee**

## **SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 9: 30 – 37**

<sup>30</sup> They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

<sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

**SERMON – *Welcoming the Least***

**Rev. Judy Fitchett**

**ANTHEM – *Be Still, Mary McDonald*  
Starmount Chancel Choir**

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Gifts may also be made online at [starmountpres.org](http://starmountpres.org).

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.

From A Brief Statement of Faith

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN - *Blessed Assurance*, Hymn 839**

**BENEDICTION**