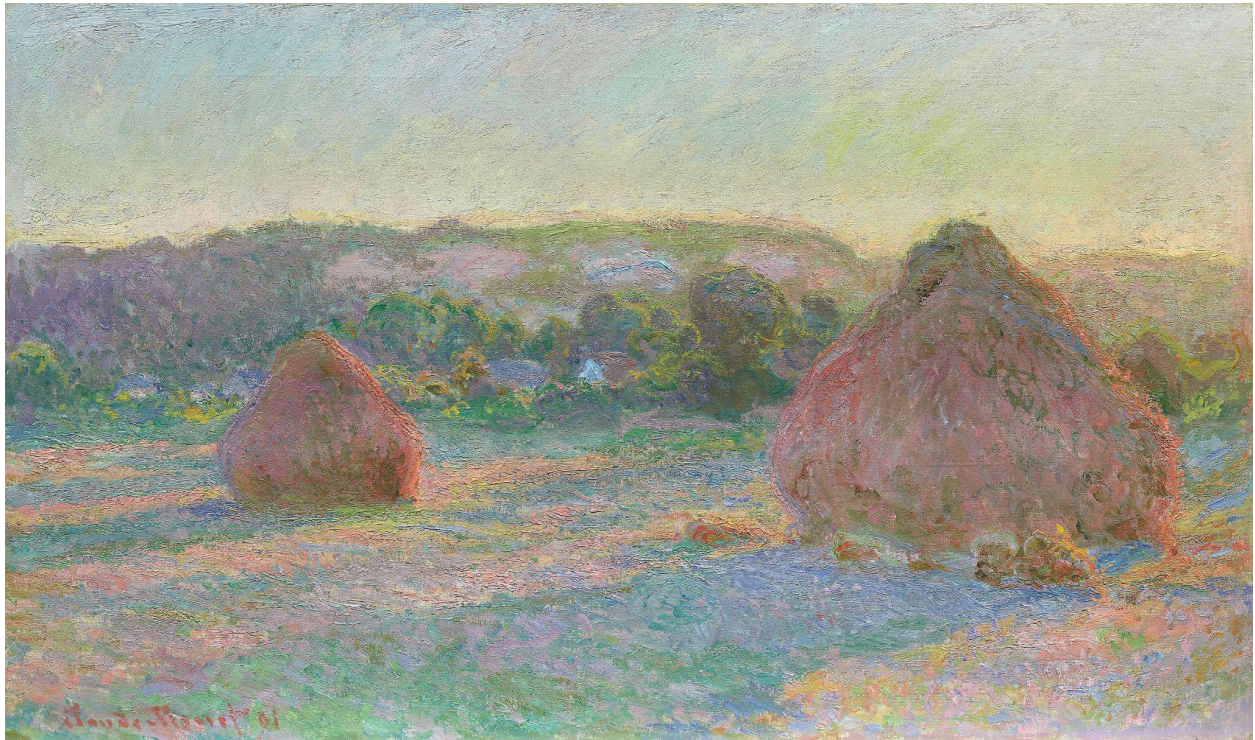




Stacks of Wheat (End of Summer), Claud Monet 1890-91.

September 28, 2025

Reflections

"The miracles were not capricious wonders but signs of the kingdom. They were the natural expression of Jesus' compassion for the needy, and also visible demonstrations of the salvation He had come to bring. They authenticate both His claims and His mission."

John Stott

"We are haunted by a longing to make sense of things, to discern meaning in our experiences and in the world around us. Faith responds to this deep human need by telling us that our stories are part of a greater story."

Alistair McGrath

"Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns."

Anne Lamott

Order of Worship

GATHERING

How Long?

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

**they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.**

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

**It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.**

For the Lord will not cast off forever,
for, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
**for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.**

from Lamentations 3

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see

Only Thou art holy
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth and sky and sea

Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons

Blessed Trinity

PRAISE SONG

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands
Who has numbered every grain of sand
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Who has given counsel to the Lord
Who can question any of His words
Who can teach the One who knows all things
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Who has felt the nails upon His hand
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Sovereign God, Our anxious hearts often drive us to seek control over every part of our lives. We confess that we sometimes believe our worry alone can shape our work, our families, our finances and our futures. We try to manipulate situations and relationships to create a false sense of security. Forgive us, Lord. You alone are in control — the true Author and Orchestrator of our lives. Remind us that our role is not to direct, but to follow faithfully where You lead. Align our hearts with Your Spirit. Teach us to release our fears and anxieties into Your capable hands. Help us trust in Your perfect plan. You are the Author and Perfecter of our faith. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23

RENEWAL SONG

We Are Not Overcome

Flesh will fail, and bones will break;
thieves will steal, the earth will shake.
Night will fall, the light will fade;
The Lord will give and take away:

Because of His great love,
we are not overcome!
Because of His great love,
we are not overcome!

Put no trust in the earth,
in the sod you stand upon.
Flowers fade into dust;
The Lord will make a place for us:

Have no fear for your life;
turn your cheek! turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give all life and breath:

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“That You May Believe: Seeing and Knowing”

Ben Shaw

¹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

John 9:1-12

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Friends May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory!
Now and forever
Now and forever, Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments

Of our suff'ring seem so long
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak
But our hope is set on Jesus
And we cling to him, our strength

Oh eternal weight of glory!
Oh inheritance divine!
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time
All our pains will be transfigured
Like the scars of Christ our Lord
We will see the weight of glory
And our broken years restored

For behold! I tell a myst'ry
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry!
When we meet our King of Grace
Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song

We will see our wounded Savior
We'll behold him face to face
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

All Things New

Come Lord, and tarry not;
Bring the long-looked-for day;
O why these years of waiting here,
These ages of delay?

Come, for Thy saints still wait;
Daily ascends their sigh:
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come":
Dost Thou not hear the cry?

O come and make all things new,
Come and make all things new,
O come and make all things new.
Build up this ruined Earth,
Come and make all things new.

Come, for creation groans,
Impatient of Thy stay,
Worn out with these long years of ill,
These ages of decay.

Come for love waxes cold,
Its steps are faint and slow;
Faith now is lost in unbelief,
Hope's lamp burns dim and low.

Come, Lord, and wipe away,
The curse, the sin, the stain

And make this broken world of ours,
Thine own fair world again.

Come and begin thy reign,
Of everlasting peace,
Come, take the kingdom to Thyself,
Great King of Righteousness!

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

LIFE TOGETHER

FAMILY UPDATES

We grieve with Jay and Rose Tovey the loss of Cleo Tovey, our beloved sister.

SERVE

September Drive for Sunnyside Ministry: Towels and sheet sets.

CHURCH LIFE

Gathering Hour - Sept. 29 8pm: All women welcome to join us at Lot 63.

First Wednesday Fellowship - Oct. 1 5:30-7pm: Dinner in the Sanctuary.

Kingdom Ministry Prayer Service - Oct. 1 7-8pm: Join us in Rm 205/207.

Quarterly Missions Prayer Lunch - Oct. 5 12:30pm: All welcome to join us.

Fall Fest - Oct. 19 5:30-7pm: Dinner (BYOB), Live music + Games (costumes welcome).

Church Directory Form: Link in Looking Up.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Youth Service Project - Sept. 28 4:30-7pm: Register for assigned location.

MS Day Retreat - Oct. 4 7:30am-8:30pm: Register now.

Kids Praise - 1st & 3rd Sundays 4:30-5:30pm: 3rd-5th grade. Begins Oct. 5.

Kids Connection - *September Verse* - To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 9/30	Difference	
Income	\$931,061	\$909,594	\$21,467	2.36%
Expense	\$998,206	\$1,106,656	-\$108,449	-9.80%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$67,145	-\$197,062	\$129,917	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,738,624