

September 20, 2026

10:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Sharon Ollinger

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*





Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Berchie Holliday in loving memory of Dick and Jean Dudgeon.

RUTH & CHUCK FOX OPEN HOUSE TODAY

Former Wyoming Baptist Church pastors, Chuck and Ruth Fox, are visiting Cincinnati this weekend. There will be an open house after church from 12:00 to 4:00pm at the house of Tam Barnett (4133 Woodchuck Drive). Bring a snack to share, if you'd like. Ruth and Chuck would love to see everyone who can make it!

ADULT ED CLASS - Malcolm Foley's *The Anti-Greed Gospel* is prophetic and providential. This book will change the way you think about history and your own life with Christ. Join us.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - A collection box is in the Narthex. For those who would like to participate but are unable to shop, monetary donations are accepted and a shopper will be provided. Please contact Desiree Baringhaus 513-593-6076 or Ruth Giordullo (513) 226-3201 with any questions.

HAT & GLOVES NEEDED!! The Mary & Martha Circle is starting its annual collection of hats and gloves for youths on the first Sunday of October. Please consider donating to this cause to help keep hands and heads warm this coming winter. Thank you and bless you!

MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES WORKDAY - September 23, October 14 & 28, 10 am-12 pm. Questions? Please contact Ruth Giordullo.

JOIN THE LAUNCH PARTY for Pastor Jason's book "*Desiring Certainty*" Come & Go Saturday, October 2 from 5-7 pm at 1273 Sweetwater.

Our Prayers for September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

For healing:

- ◆ Nancy Hessler, sister of Brenda Price, who discovered a serious issue with her lungs
- ◆ Rick Noelcke, who is home recovering from a procedure this past week
- ◆ Sharon Ollinger, who continues to search for answers and remedies for unexplained pain and fatigue
- ◆ Brenda Price, who is experiencing a number of severe health issues and is searching for answers
- ◆ Pam Snell, who continues to get therapy after a fall

For endurance, comfort, and strength in their struggle with cancer and other chronic illnesses:

- ◆ Rena Claridy, who has lung cancer
- ◆ Parker Dreyer, a young friend of Julia and Simon Grant's grandson, who has leukemia
- ◆ Rocky Hite, who is in longterm rehabilitative care
- ◆ Debbie Melford, who is suffering from microscopic colitis
- ◆ Tracey Pfau, Sarah Poynter's cousin, who is going through chemo
- ◆ John Sears, who is suffering from depression, Parkinson's, Mind Cognitive Impairment (MCI), and Alzheimers
- ◆ Anna Marie Short, a friend of Linda Dudgeon, who has cancer
- ◆ Janet Thiel, who has terminal cancer
- ◆ Barb Wehmann, who is struggling with dermatomyositis

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Dolly Parton

I must admit, my real introduction to Dolly Parton centers around Dollywood, not her music. Sure, I enjoyed a song here and there over the years – who wouldn't like *Jolene* and *Nine to Five*? – but I've never owned a Dolly album and almost never found her on my playlist. But spending time in Pigeon Forge made me wish I had.

Dolly had a gift, and I'm not talking music (though that's true, too). I'm talking tenderheartedness. She just seemed *kind*, maybe even *good*. Listening to all the reflections that have come out...





...about her after her passing this past August suggests that is one of the few things upon which we can all agree. Dolly was a national treasure.

Probably my favorite thing to see at Dollywood is that old, one-room chapel she relocated to the park. (I can't stand rollercoasters.) Dolly wasn't pushy about her faith, but I can't think of a person who didn't know she was committed to the Christian path as she understood it.

It is no doubt in this vein that we get "There Was Jesus," a powerful collaboration with fellow country music artist, Zach Williams. I know you're probably tired of me telling you all this, but the reason Psalm 23 says we can walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death without fear is not because God helps us escape the valley, but because God walks through it with us. We "never," as Dolly says, "walk alone." In the healing and the hurting, in the waiting and the searching, Jesus is there, right beside us, walking this pilgrim path with us.

I remember the moment my dad passed away. What gave him the courage to let go was not his "acceptance" of death but his knowledge that we were all there right beside him. He didn't have to walk it alone. Presence changes everything. This is what the author of Hebrews means when he reminds us that, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are." Thank God, in other words, there is Jesus.



There Was Jesus

*Every time I tried to make it on my own
Every time I tried to stand and start to fall
And all those lonely roads that I have travelled on
There was Jesus*

*When the life I built came crashing to the ground
When the friends I had were nowhere to be found
I couldn't see it then but I can see it now
There was Jesus*

***In the waiting, in the searching
In the healing and the hurting
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces
Every minute, every moment
Where I've been and where I'm going
Even when I didn't know it or couldn't see it
There was Jesus***

*For this man who needs amazing kind of grace (mm)
For forgiveness at a price I couldn't pay (mm)
I'm not perfect so I thank God every day
There was Jesus (there was Jesus)*

*On the mountain, in the valleys (there was Jesus)
In the shadows of the alleys (there was Jesus)
In the fire, in the flood (there was Jesus)
Always is and always was
No, I never walk alone (never walk alone)
You are always there*

*There was Jesus
There was Jesus
There was Jesus*