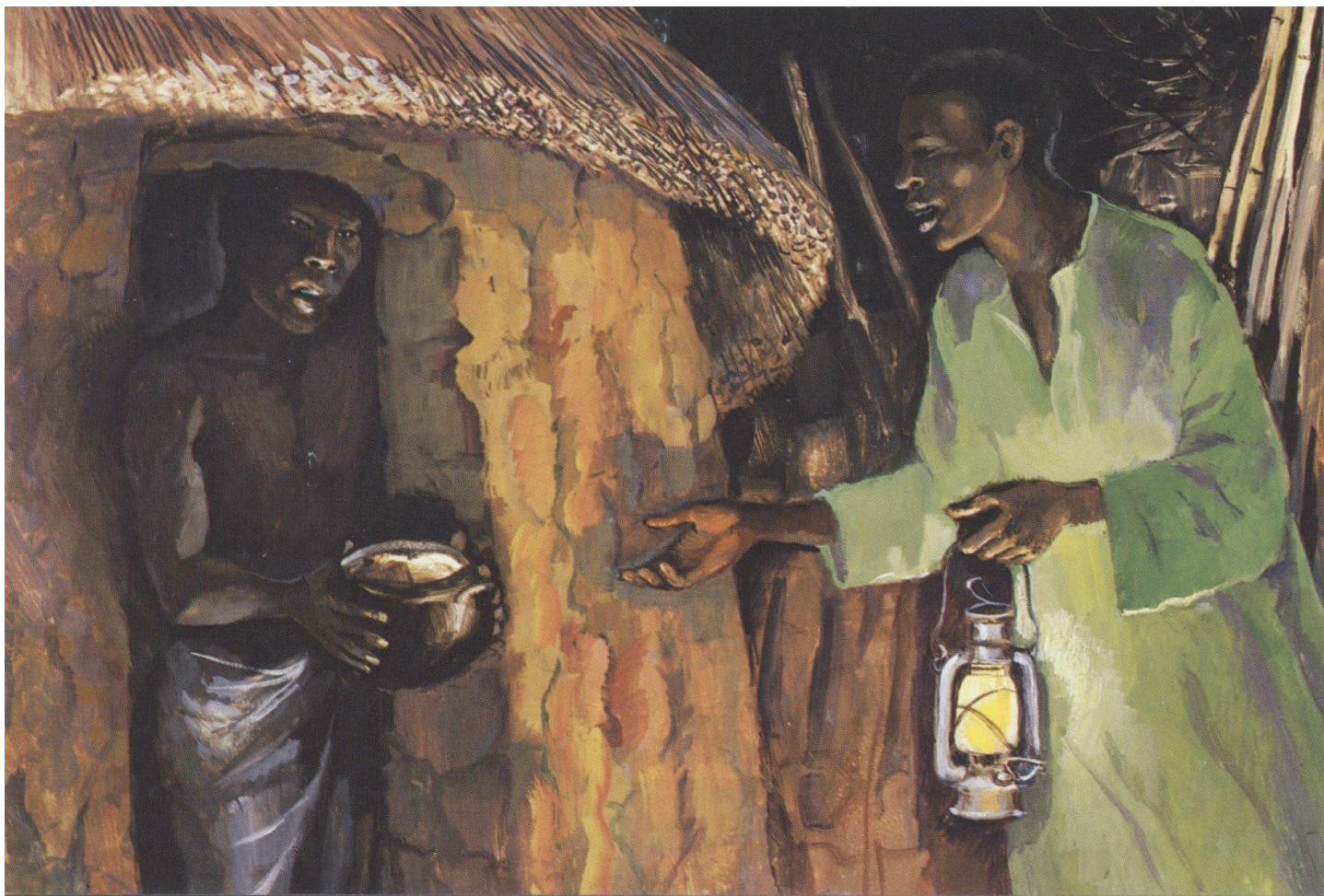




Title: The Insistent Friend (1973). Artist: JESUS MAFA.

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026, 11:00 am



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad God has brought you here!

Buck-a-Meal - Every one-dollar bill placed in the offering boxes this morning goes to purchase a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries.

Call Committee Nominations – deadline is Sept. 9. We are seeking members of our congregation to prayerfully serve on the Call Committee as we begin the important process of calling a full-time congregational care pastor. Scan QR code here to submit your nomination(s).



St. John's Book Club – Sept. 9 at 11 am in Room 216. We will discuss “*Cold Mountain*”. Contact Gary Rhodes with any questions at gary30777@gmail.com.

God's Work, Our Hands, Unity Worship and Day of Service – Sept. 13 at 10 am in the Sanctuary. We will have indoor and outdoor volunteer options to benefit Zion Hills and various community outreach projects. There will be a light lunch in Ritchie Hall for volunteers, following the service. Scan the QR code to **sign up by Sept. 9.**



Wednesday Night Meals – Begin on Sept. 16 at 5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall. Make plans to join in fellowship around the table, connecting with old friends and meeting new ones. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm and our upcoming menus are tried and true favorites. Reservations are not needed. Visit our website for the menu and to purchase your season pass at stjohns-salisbury.org/Wednesdays.

Order of St. John's Training – Sept. 20 from 12:30-2 pm in the Narthex. This event is for 6th and 9th graders to get introduced to the responsibilities of the Order of St. John's. Participants will receive training as acolytes, crucifers, banner bearers, and processionalists. Lunch is included.

3 and 4 yr Old Milestone “March with Thanksgiving” – Sept. 20 at 2 pm. Join Mrs. Stacey in the Ark. RSVP by Sept. 14 to Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Become an Outreach Shepherd – Join us for training on Sept. 20 at 2 pm in the Goodman Dining Hall. Help share Christ's love by welcoming and connecting visitors to the life of St. John's. Contact Pastor James for more info at james@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Worship at the Lake – Sept. 27 at 9:27 – at St. John's Retreat Property located at 220 Mockingbird Lane, Salisbury, NC. Join us for a peaceful morning of worship reflection and community – gathered together in the beauty of nature. Bring a chair.

Altar Flowers – Please visit our website to reserve your altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion. You may also scan the QR code here or call our office for assistance. Current available dates: Sept. 20 & 27, Oct. 4, 18 & 25.





*The congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.
Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.*

PRELUDE

We rise and face the cross.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORY TO YOU, GOD

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Children ages 3 through 3rd grade are now invited to **Kingdom Kids**.
Children will return to the worship service after the sermon.*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.



READING

Psalm 119:33-40

A reading from Psalms, the 119th chapter.

- ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
- ³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**
- ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
- ³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
- ³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
- ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Sing twice.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘God, When Human Bonds Are Broken’

ELW 603

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection + of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Share the 'peace' of Christ with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Be seated.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

'Put Peace into Each Other's Hands'
arr. Jane Holstein

*Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfolded.*

*Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.*

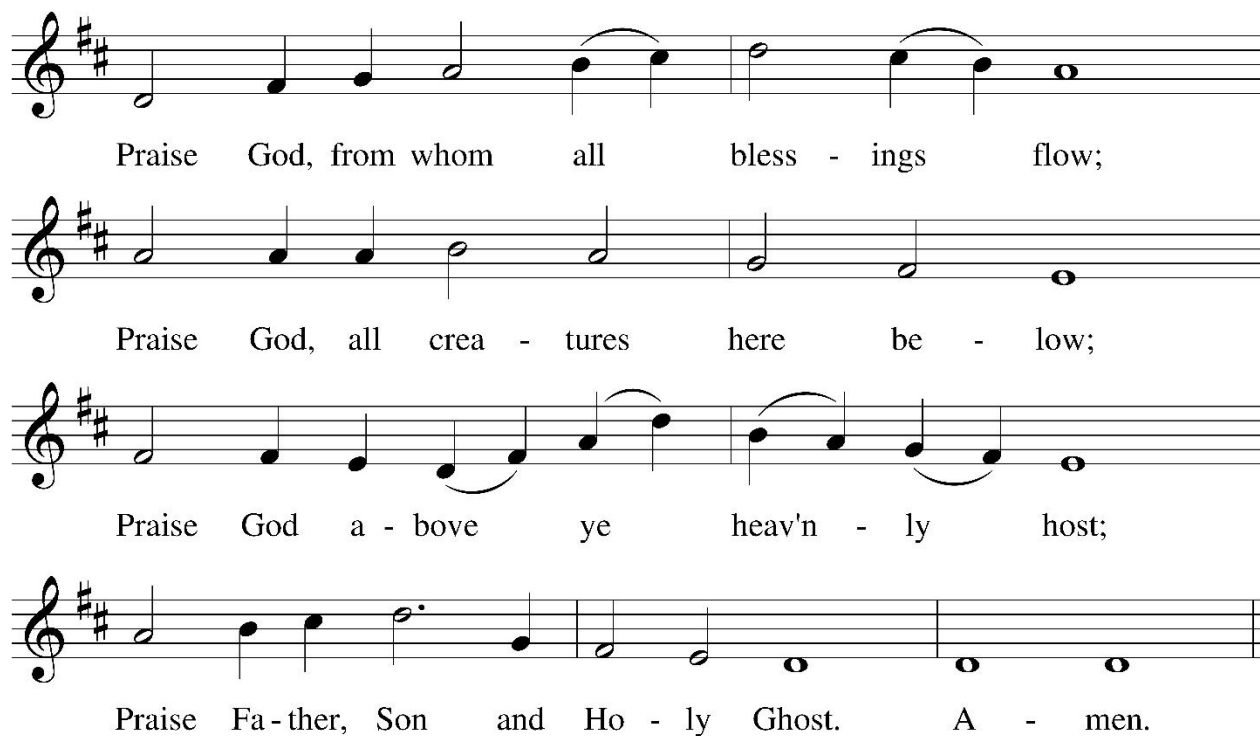
*Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.*

*Give thanks for strong yet tender hands, held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out, the heights of love expressing.*

*Put Christ into each other's hands, he is Love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.*

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise God a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Let us pray: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.
We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.
We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as
Jesus taught us: **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

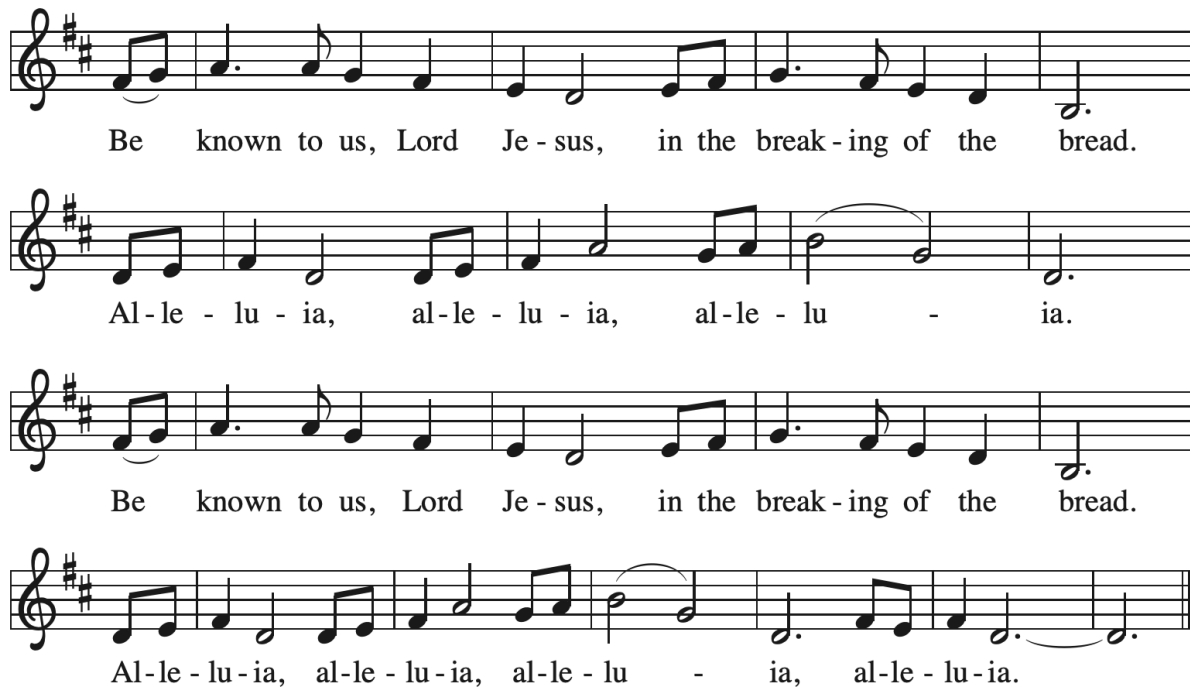
Come, Christ invites you to this table.
Thanks be to God.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. Please follow the usher's guidance to one of the three communion stations. Communion is by intinction, dipping bread (gluten free by request) into wine (or grape juice). Those not receiving Communion are invited forward to receive a blessing (crossing your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor). If you need Communion brought to you, please inform an usher.

COMMUNION HYMN



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION SONG

'This Is My Father's World'
arr. Stephen Nielson

Kim Lentz

COMMUNION HYMN

'When We Are Living'

ELW 639

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'

ELW 656

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Daryl Bruner
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Caleb Rathbun and Hannah Jean Roy
Crucifer.....Anelise Roy
Banner Bearer.....Benny Rathbun

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