



September 20, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"I am often in my own way. Instead of experiencing the Universe, I write about experiencing the Universe, while at the very moment, the wind had holy secrets to tell me." Kaitlin B. Curtice. Native, 2020.

Order of Worship

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome

Kathy Leslie

The Community Gathers

Prelude

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

John Nation

One: People of God, we gather in a season of change, entrusted with gifts of unimagined possibility and called to seek the welfare of the place where God has planted us.

Many: We come to worship the One who entrusts us with purpose.

One: Christ calls us not to bury our plenty in fear, but to invest with courage, to multiply hope, to offer what we have for the sake of God's future.

Many: We come ready to be faithful with what God has placed in our hands.

One: Take heart, God is calling "Build houses. Plant gardens. Seek the peace of the city where you dwell. For in its welfare, you will find your own."

Many: We come to seek the good of our community, to bless our neighbors, to labor for justice and mercy.

One: In worship together, at our table of Christ's feast we release what holds us, we imagine what God may yet build—and we trust that the Spirit is already ahead of us.

Many: We come with open hearts, ready to sow boldly, ready to invest generously, ready to follow Christ into God's unfolding future.

One: With gratitude and courage, we lift our voices in praise.

*Opening Hymn 86

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Ken G. Crawford

Musical Response 297

Dona Nobis Pacem

DONA NOVIS PACEM

Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

The Community Proclaims God's Word

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29:4-7

John Nation

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens

and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (NRSVUE)

Así dice el Señor de los Ejércitos, el Dios de Israel, a todos los que envié al exilio de Jerusalén a Babilonia: «Construyan casas y habítenlas; planten huertos y coman de su fruto. Cásense y tengan hijos e hijas. También casen a sus hijos e hijas para que a su vez ellos les den nietos. Multiplíquense allá y no disminuyan. Además, busquen el bienestar de la ciudad adonde los he deportado y pidan al Señor por ella, porque el bienestar de ustedes depende del bienestar de la ciudad». (NVI)

Special Music

Draw the Circle Wide

Gordon Light, Mark Miller

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

John Nation

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (NRSVUE)

»El reino de los cielos será también como un hombre que, al emprender un viaje, llamó a sus siervos y les encargó sus bienes. A uno le dio cinco mil monedas; a otro, dos mil y a otro, mil. Dio a cada uno según su capacidad. Luego se fue de viaje. El que había recibido las cinco mil fue enseguida y negoció con ellas y ganó otras cinco mil. Así mismo, el que recibió dos mil ganó otras dos mil. Pero el que

había recibido mil fue, cavó un hoyo en la tierra y escondió el dinero de su señor. »Después de mucho tiempo, volvió el señor de aquellos siervos y arregló cuentas con ellos. El que había recibido las cinco mil monedas llegó con las otras cinco mil. "Señor —dijo—, usted me encargó cinco mil monedas. Mire, he ganado otras cinco mil". Su señor respondió: "¡Hiciste bien, siervo bueno y fiel! En lo poco has sido fiel; te pondré a cargo de mucho más. ¡Ven a compartir la felicidad de tu señor!". Llegó también el que recibió dos mil monedas. "Señor —informó—, usted me encargó dos mil monedas. Mire, he ganado otras dos mil". Su señor respondió: "¡Hiciste bien, siervo bueno y fiel! En lo poco has sido fiel; te pondré a cargo de mucho más. ¡Ven a compartir la felicidad de tu señor!". »Después llegó el que había recibido mil monedas. "Señor —explicó—, yo sabía que usted es un hombre duro, que cosecha donde no ha sembrado y recoge donde no ha esparcido. Así que tuve miedo y fui y escondí su dinero en la tierra. Mire, aquí tiene lo que es suyo". Pero su señor respondió: "¡Siervo malo y perezoso! ¿Así que sabías que cosecho donde no he sembrado y recojo donde no he esparcido? Pues debías haber depositado mi dinero en el banco, para que a mi regreso lo hubiera recibido con intereses". »Después ordenó: "Quítenle las mil monedas y dáselas al que tiene las diez mil. Porque a todo el que tiene se le dará más y tendrá en abundancia. Al que no tiene hasta lo que tiene se le quitará. Y a ese siervo inútil échelo afuera, a la oscuridad, donde habrá llanto y crujir de dientes". (NVI)

Sermon "When the Season Changes: The Next Faithful Thing" Rev. Dr. Ken G. Crawford

Musical Response *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloché
(see insert)

Prayers of the People Carol John

The Lord's Prayer Congregation
Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Giving Carol Hargis-Nation

Responsive Hymn 379 *Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring* ELLACOMBE

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace Rev. Dr. Ken G. Crawford

Communion Hymn 392 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* UNION SEMINARY

Invitation to the Table Carol John

Prayer over the Elements Carol John

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Those who are able are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements and partake by intinction. Those serving will tear a piece of bread. You will dip it in the cup. You may return to your seat via the side aisles. The Table of the Lord is open to all. Christ invites us into communion.

The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

Invitation to Join

Carol John

***Invitation Hymn 458**

Ours the Journey

OURS THE JOURNEY

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Ken G. Crawford

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

arr. Cindy Berry

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."

BIENVENIDA CONGREGACIONAL

"Reafirmando nuestra propia fe en Jesucristo, les damos la bienvenida a esta expresión de la iglesia universal de Dios. Los recibimos con amor, nos comprometemos a su cuidado y celebramos su presencia en nuestra congregación. Mediante el poder del espíritu de Dios, hagamos juntos justicia, amemos la misericordia y caminemos humildemente con Dios, quien nos fortalece para servirnos unos a otros."

VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to **be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, hunger and social issues that affect our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter and Friday Flash emails for details and more.)

We welcome Rev. Dr. Ken G. Crawford as guest preacher today.

He is an ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, leadership and life coach, and organizational consultant with more than 30 years of ministry experience. He holds a Doctor of Ministry in Missional Leadership from SMU's Perkins School of Theology and has served churches in a variety of pastoral and leadership roles. Ken is the creator of the Synchronous Life System™, a whole-person framework for leadership, wellbeing, and flourishing, and works with individuals, congregations, nonprofits, and organizations as they navigate change, discern vocation, and grow into their next faithful season.

Congregational Meeting set for Sunday September 27 at 12:15 p.m.

Please remain after worship for this important meeting.

First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch is October 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Join us at Dona Lola, corner of Webb Chapel and Belt Line, Carrollton.

Adult Sunday School Class News.

We are discussing John Pavlovitz's writings. He discusses a Christian response to what is happening in the U.S. today. Mary will email the exact column each week. We meet each Sunday at 10:00 AM.

Mark your calendar:

Board Meeting - September 20, 12:15 p.m.
Congregational Meeting - September 27, 12:15 p.m.
Elders Meeting - September 27, 12:30 p.m.
Cabinet Meeting - October 1, 7:00 p.m.
Finance Committee - October 8, 7:00 p.m.
Mission & Outreach Committee - October 11, 12:00 p.m.

All Church Prayer - Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. on Zoom
Prayer Alcove - Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Adult Book Discussion - Sundays, 10:00 a.m., room 1

Scan this QR code
to make a financial
contribution to
Midway Hills
Christian Church:



Prelude: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, arr. Mark Hayes. ©2013 Hope Publishing.

Special Music: *Draw the Circle Wide*, by Gordon Light and Mark Miller. ©2008 Abingdon Press.

Postlude: *God of Grace and God of Glory*, arr. Cindy Berry. ©1989 Pilot Point Music.

We record our services live and for social media use. Music reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-711616 and Christian Copyright Solutions license #15197. Hymns (unless noted) from Chalice Hymnal ©1995 Chalice Press. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) ©2021 National Council of Churches and the Society of Biblical Literature. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations from La Santa Biblia, Nueva Versión Internacional® NVI® Copyright 1999 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

LaVerne Johnson; Dan Gaylord—surgery, Friday, Sept. 11

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

James Lackey's sister Jessica; Robin Copeland's brother Wade Keller; Jack van Wunnik; Rev. Robert Schomp; David Hammons' wife, Joan

Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Nina Boothe	Gay and Jim Gilmore	Bryen Lackey
Frank and Millie Martin	Jeryl Crawford	Lynne Stokes
Judy Mank	Chris & Jayne Sparrer	Elaine & Don Manworren
Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins—hospitalized		

Sympathy to:

- ❖ Mary Ludwick and family on the death of her brother, John Croix.
- ❖ Roger Wedell and family on the passing of his nephew, Brett Wedell.
- ❖ Dan Gaylord and family on the passing of his aunt and uncle.

Let's celebrate with joy:

- Laura & Paul Mitchell on relocating to Mexico to be near family
- Having LaVerne Johnson in worship on Sunday
- John O'Neal & Lowery Ferguson on beginning a new life in Mexico
- Our guests/visitors in worship in the sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Those facing the difficulties of losing their employment
- Muslim community
- Religious freedom legislation
- Legislative sessions
- Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants and refugees

Please pray for our nation and world:

- **Being inclusive, pursuing justice, embracing diversity**
- U.S. wildfires and Grand Canyon flooding
- Victims of random violence
- The people of Nepal, as they face the tragic loss of life due to flooding in their country, and the difficult tasks to rebuild & restore
- Those working for peace in places of conflict and those caught in the cycles of violence
- Justice for the people of Ukraine and others struggling against oppression
- Justice for the Palestinian people
- Those who have limited access to health care and those working to expand access
- Those experiencing discrimination and oppression because of their gender identity, sexual orientation or gender expression
- Those struggling with food insecurity and those working to overcome it
- Those who work to create a larger Welcome Table

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20

9:45 a.m. Choir practice
10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
11:00 a.m. Children's Church
12:15 p.m. Board meeting, community hall & online

Tuesday

September 22

9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Thursday

September 24

8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer, on Zoom
6:00 p.m. Prayer Alcove
7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27

9:45 a.m. Choir practice
10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
11:00 a.m. Children's Church
12:15 p.m. Congregational meeting, sanctuary
12:15 p.m. Elder's Meeting, conference room

MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

Douglass Anne Cartwright
Bookkeeper

TECH CREW
James Lackey
John Leslie

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Kate Lynch

SEPTEMBER DEACON
Clayton Cunningham

SEPTEMBER 20 ELDER
Carol John

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet after worship with the Elder offering the invitation,
or contact the church office any time.

Midway Hills Christian Church · 11001 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75229
www.midwayhills.org · 214-352-4841

