

***Unison Prayer**

Faithful and sustaining God, You have carried us through every season. When we were distracted, You anchored us. When we were pressed, You held us together. When we were tempted to shrink, You strengthened our witness. Today we stand in gratitude. Not because the road was easy, but because Your joy sustained us. Renew our strength for what lies ahead. Let the joy we celebrate today become courage tomorrow. Let the faith we proclaim in worship become action in the world. Send us forward; still standing, still singing, still trusting You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Old Testament Reading Nehemiah 8:10

New Testament Reading John 16:32-33

Hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing* UMH 519

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Responsive Prayer

Leader: We have walked through challenge and found strength.

People: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Leader: We have faced uncertainty and discovered courage.

People: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Leader: When we were weary, God renewed us.

People: When we were unsure, God steadied us.

Leader: Will we carry this joy into the week ahead?

People: We will, by God's grace.

Leader: Will we shine as light in weary places?

People: We will, by the Spirit's power.

Leader: Still standing.

People: Still singing.

All: For the joy of the Lord is our strength. Amen.

Choral Anthem

***Offering Invitation**

***Doxology**

UMH 94

***Prayer for the Offering**

(Online giving available at noumc.org. Click on "Donate" tab.)

***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 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. Amen.

Hymn *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* TFWS 2153

Sermon Series **Unbothered, Unbroken, and Unashamed:
Joy in the Face of it All**

Week Four: "Still Standing, Still Singing: Joy That Carries Us Forward" Pastor Tennille Power

***Closing Hymn** *Victory is Mine*

***Benediction/Recessional**

Postlude *Holy One* Tranaine Hawkins

(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude before exiting the Sanctuary.)

**Please stand if you are able.*