

**Sunday**

10:45 am Hebrews Group

**Monday**

**OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY**

**Tuesday**

4:00 pm Education Meeting

4:30 pm Prayer Gathering

5:30 pm Trustees meeting

5:30 pm Outreach Team

**Wednesday**

10:00 am Sisters In Christ

6:00 pm Bells

7:00 pm Choir

**Thursday**

The Prayer Room is open before, during and after today's service. Members of the Prayer Team are available to pray with you after the Service.

**Sermon Notes**

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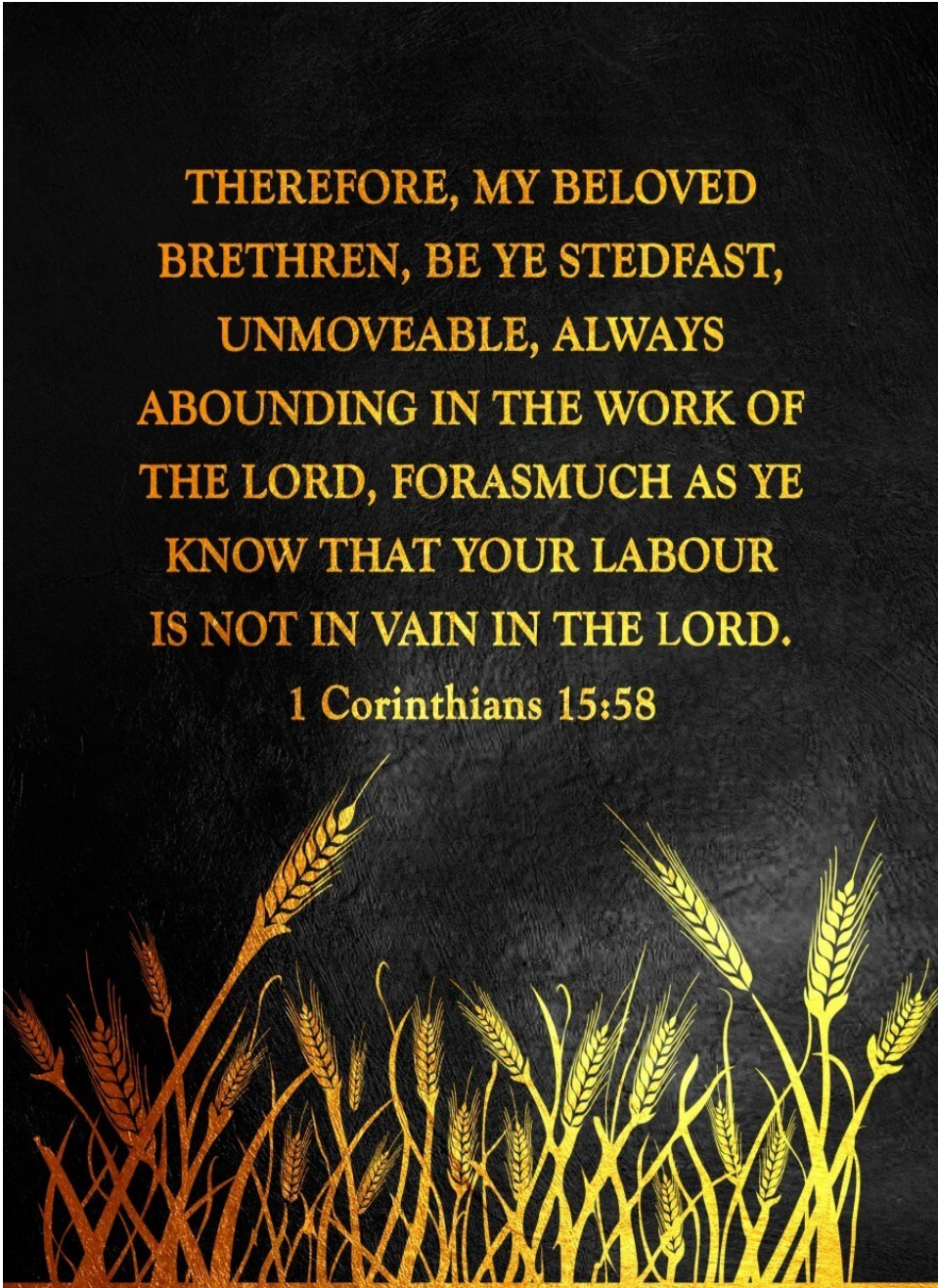
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Grace Methodist Church 901 N Main Decatur, IL 62521  
Phone: (217) 429-5374 www.decaturname.org



**September 3, 2023**



### **Introit -**

Redeemer and King - Chancel Choir

### **\*Call to Worship**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

UMH #98 - To God be the Glory

### **Announcements**

### **Congregational Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

### **Prayer Anthem -**

We Give Our Lives - Chancel Choir

Draw Me Close to You

### **(Offering)**

How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art

UMH #95 Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

### **\*Scripture**

1Corinthians 15:58

**\*Scripture Response & UMH#393-Spirit of the Living God**

### **Message**

Have I Labored in Vain?

**Communion Anthem -The Whisper - Chancel Choir**

### **Holy Communion**

### **\*Closing Hymn**

UMH #664 –Sent Forth by God's Blessing

### **\*Benediction**

### **Congregational Prayer**

Loving and generous God, You are the font of every blessing and the source of all we have. Your breath gives us life, Your love gives us courage and strength, healing and compassion. You care for us like a loving parent and feed our spirits, minds, and bodies. Everything we have is from You.

**We thank You for Your abundance freely given to all.**

We come before You this day to thank You for the prosperity of this nation and the skills and talents of workers who have contributed to this country's success. Remind us that without Your love and gifts, we would have no skills or talents to share, and that the work of our hands is also the work of Yours. Write Your law and Your will on our hearts, O Lord, and help us to know that our abundance is given so that the needs of all may be met.

**Teach us to be grateful for the work we have been given, and teach us to share the benefits of that work.**

Sometimes, O God, we have made work into our master, letting work invade the time You give us to rest, to have fellowship with others, and to worship You, our God and Father. At other times we "make do" and get by" in our work, rather than working with our whole heart. We have been overwhelmed by worry and stress, forgetting to place our work in Your hands and to trust You for the harvest.

**Forgive all our sins because of your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Eternal God, You hear the cry of the poor and those who need to find gainful employment. Open their hearts and minds to opportunities presented, and guide them to find ways to better their situations. Give those in charge a spirit of willingness to open doors for those with no hope, Help us build a society in which all workers are valued for the work they do and the skills they have.

**We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.**

We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary. Make our lives of faith merge with our lives of work. Together, we pray the way Jesus taught us:

*(The Lord's Prayer follows)*

**\*Congregation please stand as able**

Liturgist: **Keith Casteel**

Rev. Dr. Arun Paul - arun@decatrace.org

(Worship is recorded for T.V. viewing and other social media platforms)