

August 23, 2026 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost



“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16: 18



Edisto Island

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



EDISTO ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Order of Worship

August 23, 2026 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #328

"Surely the Presence"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

We come to proclaim: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

In a world full of noise and competing voices...

We listen for the One who speaks life.

In a place of beauty, history, and deep roots...

We gather to remember who we are.

Come, let us worship the God who reveals Himself in Christ.

Blessed are we when we confess His name. Amen.

*OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Holy and Living God, you meet us in places where other powers claim our allegiance, and you ask us the question that shapes our lives: Who do you say that I am? Grant us clarity of heart, courage of spirit, and the grace to confess Christ not only with our lips but with our lives. Build Your Church among us here on Edisto Island, and let your Spirit reveal again the truth that sets us free. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #98

"To God Be the Glory"

CONFESSION OF SIN & PARDON

With confidence in God's Grace, let us now confess our sins.

Merciful God, We confess that we often answer Jesus' question with hesitation and half-hearted faith. We cling to lesser loyalties, we trust our own strength, and we forget the courage you give. Forgive us when we lock doors you call us to open, when we silence the confession you place on our lips, and when we fail to live as your Church in the world you love. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Let us confess our sins in silence)

Hear the good news: Christ meets us not with condemnation but with blessing. To all who confess Him as Lord, He speaks the word of grace: "Blessed are you." In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living God, by Your Spirit, open our ears to hear your question, open our hearts to receive your revelation, and open our lives to follow your Son. As your Word is read and proclaimed, let us see Christ clearly and confess Him faithfully. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 1:8-2:10

PSALTER #846

Psalms 124

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 12: 1-8

***THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 16: 13-20

SERMON

"Who Do You Say I Am?"

***HYMN #175**

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

THE OFFERING

ANTHEM

***DOXOLOGY #95**

"Praise God from All Blessings Flow"

PRAYER FOLLOWING THE OFFERING

Generous God, You entrust us with the keys of Your kingdom — the power to bless, to forgive, to open doors. Receive these gifts, and use them to build your Church and to bless your world. May our offering be a confession of faith, a sign of our gratitude, and a witness to your living presence among us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN # 568**

"Christ for the World We Sing"

***BENEDICTION**

We go forth as living stones, built upon the Rock who is Christ. We go forth to answer Jesus' question with words, compassion, and courage. We go forth to open doors, to welcome neighbors, and to bear witness to the love that never fails.

And may the blessing of God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.



Participating in worship today:
Steve Strange, Margaret Green,
Donna Padgett

Last Sunday:
August 16, 2026
Attendance: 35
(in person & online)
Offering: \$2,810

Edisto Island UMC



QR Code for Offering
& Special Giving



OPEN MONDAYS:
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM



The Steele Family, Haley Davis, Violet McKenney, The Loy Family, Duncan Bunch, Reynolds Hayden, Alex Cone, Tommy Keller, Donna Padgett, Butch Evans, Beth Warshaw, Bob Foster, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves, Bob Spratlin, Laura & Jim Emory, Ethelynn Boozer, Nancy Culclasure, Lauren (Donna's niece),

Church Office: (843) 869-3456
Church Email:
UMCEdisto@yahoo.com
Pastor Len: (843) 343-8794
Email: lcripleyiii@umcsc.org
Church Website: EIUMC.org

WIFI NETWORK:
EIUMCguest
Password:
25!Happy



“SOLE STEPPING”

EIUMC
Members & Friends
We will need volunteers
to help on Sept 4th only.
(more info to follow)
Please consider and let
Judy W. know if you're
available to help!



Coming Fall 2026
Sept. 6 at 8:40 AM

Adult Sunday School
Edisto Island United Methodist Church


THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
11:30 AM

Edisto Island United Methodist Church
Charge Conference

This Sunday at Edisto Island UMC: “Who Do You Say That I Am?”

Matthew 16:13–20

Some questions don't simply ask for information — they ask for *truth*. They ask for *courage*. They ask for *you*.

This Sunday, we gather around one of the most searching questions Jesus ever asked His disciples: **“Who do you say that I am?”** It's a question that doesn't just reveal who Jesus is — it reveals who *we* are.

In the sermon, we'll explore how Jesus chooses to ask this question in Caesarea Philippi, a place crowded with competing voices, rival loyalties, and countless claims to power. It's as if Jesus stands in the middle of Times Square and says, “Tell me who I am — not who the world says I am, not who tradition says I am, but who *you* say I am.”

Peter's bold confession becomes the doorway into a life of faith that is honest, imperfect, courageous, and real. And that's good news for us. Because the Church is not built on perfect people — it's built on people willing to speak the truth they've glimpsed.

Here on Edisto Island, we know something about places that reveal us. The marsh, the tides, the quiet — they have a way of stripping away pretense. Jesus' question does the same. It invites us to speak from the deepest place within us.

We'll also reflect on what it means that Jesus gives Peter “the keys of the kingdom.” Keys are symbols of trust — not to lock people out, but to open doors wide. In a world where so many feel shut out, the Church is called to be a place where people discover a door that isn't locked.

This Sunday, we'll consider how every act of kindness, every prayer whispered for a neighbor, every meal served, every child welcomed, every grieving family comforted — all of it becomes our answer to Jesus' question.

Come join us as we listen, wonder, and respond. Come as you are — with your questions, your hopes, your doubts, your courage. Come ready to hear Jesus ask, “Who do you say that I am?” And come ready to discover again who *you* are in Him.

Worship at 10:00 AM • Edisto Island United Methodist Church A place where the doors are open, the welcome is real, and Christ still asks the question that changes everything.

Come think about the question and answer it, if you ready!

Rev. Len Ripley