



# Order of Worship

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

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**Gathering and Welcome** *Just As I Am*

**Prelude** *Because He Lives* – arr. Albin Whitworth

Jessye Whitis, pianist, Carol Tyson, organist

**\*Call to worship** (from Psalm 1)

In you, O God, we seek refuge;

**In Your justice, deliver us.**

Be a rock of refuge for us,  
a strong fortress, because You are our rock and fortress.

**For you, O Lord, are our hope and trust.**

Our praise is continually of You.

**\*Hymn # 93** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

**\*Call to confession**

God in Christ has called us to be witnesses to the promised and coming commonwealth that we know in Christ. However, we have failed in our calling because we don't trust in God's promised presence among us.

Let us confess our sins:

**\*Prayer of confession**

**O God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, we confess our feelings of exile and alienation, and we wonder where you are. We fear your absence when, in fact, you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of pardon**

The God who hung the stars and the moon has come close to each and all with mercy and love. Hear the good news of the gospel, we are forgiven and empowered by God's Spirit to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Thanks be to God.

**Choral Anthem** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* – by Tom Mitchell  
Jessye Whitis, Music Director, pianist

**Prayer for illumination**

O God, open our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit so that the words of Scripture that we hear this day may become your Word that empowers our lives in this time and place. Amen

**Scripture readings** Jeremiah 1: 4 – 10; Luke 13: 10 - 17

**Sermon** *You Don't Know What You Don't See*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

**Affirmation of faith** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that  
nothing in life or in death can separate us from the  
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 451** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

**Call for the offering**

The God of all creation, who has stretched out the heavens and called the stars by name, also gives us strength for our journey. Let us now respond with gratitude to God's empowering presence by giving of our resources in return.

**Offertory** *Amazing Grace* – arr. Albin Whitworth

Jessye Whitis, pianist, Carol Tyson, organist

**\*Doxology # 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Prayer of dedication**

O God, we give you thanks for the gifts of creation, and for the gift of life itself. We dedicate our resources to you, trusting and hoping that they will build up your work in our world. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

God of creation and redemption, your prophet Jeremiah reminds us, "Do not be afraid ... for I am with you to deliver you." (Jeremiah 1:8) We thank you for this assurance of your strength and power. You have created all things and continue to sustain them. You also come into our present moment, our times of vulnerability and trial, to renew our strength, and for this we are thankful!

Yet we acknowledge, O God, that the realities of our world weigh heavily on us, our children, our nation and the entire globe. Our crisis makes us feel isolated and deeply vulnerable. Teach us, O God, that stand-alone self-sufficiency is an illusion and not your will for us. Help us to discern our deep interdependency with one another and with you. Help us to trust in the comforting words of the prophet Jeremiah, which remind us that you are with us.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "**Our Father ...**"

## **\*Hymn of Sending # 175 Seek Ye First**

### **Charge and benediction** (from Isaiah 58)

Let your light shine in the darkness, and your gloom be like the noonday.

May the Lord guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong.

And you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

**Amen.**

**Postlude** *In Christ There is No East or West* Jessye Whitis, pianist

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*Liturgy written by Roger Gench.*