

Order of Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2026



Gathering and Announcements *Pachelbel Canon*

Prelude *Come Christians Join to Sing* – arr. Becky Mayo

***Call to worship**

Seek the Lord! Seek God in the wilderness.

Seek God in the sanctuary.

Seek God in the burning bush.

Seek God in the burning heart.

The Lord is here! This place is holy!

We are standing on holy ground.

***Opening Hymn # 406** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

***Call to confession**

Sin leads us out, but the warmth of God's forgiveness welcomes us back. Trusting in God's love, let us confess our sins to God:

***Prayer of confession**

God of wonders, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, busy or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears and excuses and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. Give us a purpose and the courage to pursue it. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Assurance of pardon**

Hear the good news! New life rises from the ashes.
In Christ, you are alive to all that is good.

In Christ, we are made whole; in Christ, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.

Choral Anthem *Song of Fellowship* – by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Prayer for illumination

Divine Light, shine on these pages that the stories may
speak again to us today. Shine on our hearts that we might
know how to respond. Amen.

Sermon Series – What A Fellowship

Scripture readings Matthew 16: 21 - 28

Sermon *I Am The Church, You Are The Church; Are We Are The Church
Together?* Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

***Affirmation of faith** (adapted from the Confession of 1967)

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds.
We believe that God has created the world of space and time
to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty
and vastness, transcendence and awe-fulness, order and disorder,
the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its
Creator.**

**We believe that God has created us for a personal relationship
in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to
be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.**

***Hymn of Response # 463** *How Firm a Foundation*

***Call for the offering**

With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to
God.

Offertory *Duke Street (Jesus Shall Reign)* – arr. Penny Rodriguez

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

Prayer of dedication

Generous God, we offer our gifts to you, grateful for all you have given
us, and grateful for the chance to give to others. Build up your church
through these offerings, that we might be a place where your goodness
is seen, practiced, and shared. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Jesus Christ, Savior, Light of the world, we lift our prayers to you, confident that you hear us, weep with us, laugh with us, and stay always close by us.

We have much to celebrate today. We lift our prayers for this congregation, that we might grow strong and love fiercely, shining as a light to our community. We lift up our ministries, grateful that your Spirit and our spirits can work together to do amazing things. We lift up each member and friend of this congregation.

We look with hope to all the stories of peace and joy that occupy less space on the front page: for the doctors, nurses, chaplains, therapists, organizers, mentors, parents, neighbors and strangers who come together in heavy times to bring healing and hope. We dare to celebrate even the smallest glimmers, knowing that your Love is strong enough to carry the sorrows of the world. We pray we might be servants of that love and of your just peace, the hands and feet of Christ here on earth.

We remember also those stories of pain which do not make the news, remembering that we have committed to loving those we do not know. Open our ears and eyes, and help us to see our neighbors who suffer, in this place and across the world, with no one to notice them. We pray for those confined to their homes and those who have nowhere to call home; we pray for the sick who seek healing and those for whom healing will not come; we pray for victims of abuse in all forms, and for those who seek power not in You but in violence, bigotry, fear or force.

We lift all these things to you, knowing that your arms are wide enough to encircle the whole world, even as we cannot comprehend it all. We also lift those concerns we know all too well; those people and situations we hold deep in our hearts...

Let us say together the words he himself taught his disciples to pray, saying, **"Our Father ..."**

Hymn of Sending # 837 *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Charge and benediction

I send you out now into the world: where there are many fires burning that could consume you. But still I say: do not be afraid!

You bear the fire that does not consume: the strength of God who keeps you, the clarity of Christ who calls you, and the dancing flames of the Holy Spirit, who makes you brave and bold. **Amen.**

Postlude *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Jessye Whitis, Music Director and Pianist, Julie McPhail, Liturgist

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Liturgy written by Carol Prickett.