

Order of Worship

11th Sunday After Pentecost

August 9, 2026



Gathering and Welcome *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

Prelude *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* – arr. John Innes

***Call to worship** *(Based on Jeremiah 1:5)*

God knows us before we are born

God creates and consecrates us

Listen for God's call speaking through the Spirit

We are ready to hear and respond

Let us worship God.

***Hymn # 413** *Come into God's Presence*

***Call to confession**

We are led astray from God and God's purpose for our lives by our sins and shortcomings. Let us clear our path back to God through our prayer of confession.

***Prayer of confession**

Eternal God, you call, but we fail to listen. We rationalize our way out of doing what you desire. We excuse ourselves from your work, claiming our own inadequacies. You promise to equip us, but we fail to trust you. Transform us. Encourage us. Make us steadfast in faith. Amen.

***Assurance of pardon**

God's grace is abundant. God's redemption free to receive. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Alleluia. Amen.**

Choral Anthem *Lord, Can You Hear Us Praying* – by Besig and Price

Prayer for illumination

God of Glory, open our hearts and minds to the hearing and receiving of your Word today. May we listen, discern and follow wherever you call. Amen.

Sermon Series – What A Fellowship

Scripture Reading Matthew 14: 22 - 33

Sermon *Meetings on Stormy Seas*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

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

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Hymn # 402 *How Lovely, Lord

***Call for the offering**

We belong to God. Everything we have, even life itself, is a gift from God. In gratitude to God, let us return a portion of these gifts as our tithe and offering.

Offertory *Moment by Moment – arr. Fred Bock*

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

***Prayer of dedication**

God of abundance and steadfast love, you provide for us in ways we do not always know or recognize. You have prepared and provided for us since before we were born. Receive these tokens of our gratitude and bless them. May the gifts we return to you provide for others in a way that gives glory to you and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Almighty God, we come before you praying for the growth and development of our ministry. Thank you for the chance you've given us to spread the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Give us the strength to fight all the forces that are contrary to the message of Jesus. Go before us and level down mountains. You've chosen us, leaders, to be shepherds. Give us the wisdom to carry out our roles well. Let our focus be on bringing more souls to you, as we pray the Lord's Prayer together saying, "Our Father..." Amen.

Hymn of Sending # 839 *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Charge and benediction

God calls;
Christ saves;
The Spirit sends us into mission and ministry.
May we leave this house of worship knowing the grace,
hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer
and Sustainer. **Amen.**

Postlude *Lead On, O King Eternal*

Jessye Whitis, Music Director & Pianist, Carol Tyson, Organist,
Arthur McPhail, Liturgist

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott.