

Order of Worship

9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026



Gathering and announcements *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Prelude *Who is on the Lord's Side –by C. Luise Reichardt*

***Call to worship** (from Psalm 119)

The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,
The unfolding of God's word gives light and understanding.

Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

Make your face shine upon your servants.

We come together to worship the living God.

***Opening Hymn # 2 Come, Thou Almighty King**

***Call to confession**

If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. We admit that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers, let us confess our sins:

***Prayer of confession**

God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by your grace.

Silent prayer of confession

***Assurance of pardon**

Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to God.

Anthem *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place*

Soloist – Bob Tyson

Prayer for illumination

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture readings Jeremiah 29: 11 – 14; Philippians 4: 4 – 7;
Matthew 6: 25 - 34

Message *What, me worry?*

Ruling Elder Richard Wood

***Affirmation of faith** (from The Barmen Declaration, 8.14-8.16)

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

Hymn # 370 *This Is My Father's World

Call for the offering

Out of gratitude for all that God has provided for us and with hope that as we invest ourselves and the gifts we have received, we will see the kingdom of heaven grow and flourish in this world, we bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us in this time and place.

Offertory *There's a Quiet Understanding* – by Tedd Smith and Ron Hustad

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

***Prayer of dedication**

We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. As from even the smallest of seeds, your kingdom grows, bless our tithes, gifts and offerings, and bless us that we might be ever more faithful in your work of reconciliation, love and joy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, it is with humble hearts and audacious hope that we come before you in prayer.

We pray for beginnings, so often as small as a mustard seed, planted where life has grown dry and weary. It is hard to wait for what we cannot see to sprout and to grow. We rush ahead with our own visions of what the kingdom must be. And yet, in time, new life begins and will one day give shelter to many who flock to it. Give us patience, O Lord.

We pray for spirit and breath like leaven that creates space and rises toward something new. We need that new life in your church. Where things feel flat and tasteless, may we be leaven. Enable us to see the transformation your Spirit brings, even when others question its worth. Give us courage, O Lord.

We pray for unsettled economies and those who wonder where their next meal will come from. We hear that the kingdom is like a hidden treasure and we quickly start adding up the cost so that we might hoard it all for ourselves. Inspire us to share the abundance that you have provided for us. Help us to treasure each and every one of your children as beloved. Give us faith, O Lord.

We pray for those who feel they have no value. We pray for the sick and those who grieve. Like a merchant who searches and searches for a pearl, may we open our lives and our churches to those who need your grace and love. Let us not be too impressed with ourselves and yet not dismissive of all you have created us to be. Give us humility and care, O Lord.

We pray for the amazing diversity of the world, for the net that gathers all into a web of care and concern. May we speak the truth to those who try to diminish or divide. May we work for peace in places of violence and despair. Open our minds to learn from those most different from us. Give us wisdom, O Lord.

God of grace, continue to puzzle and confound us by your word, for in our questions you lead us to grow and change. Draw us ever closer to you, that we might be a glimpse of your kingdom here and now, even as we join our voices to pray that your kingdom might come with the words Jesus taught his disciples to pray saying, “**Our Father ...**”

Hymn of Sending # 661 *His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Charge and benediction

As we go forth from this place; as our service of worship comes to an end, may our lives of worship and service begin anew. May the kingdoms of the world be perplexed, and even threatened, by the glimpses of God’s reign that they see in you and may the good news of the gospel you share ensure that life will never be the same. Alleluia. **Amen.**

Postlude *Proclaim the Glory of the Lord*

Jessye Whitis, Music Director and Pianist, Carol Tyson, Organist

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Liturgy written by Matthew A. Rich