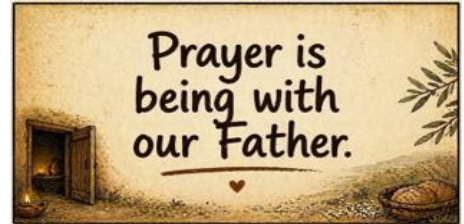


Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2026



Welcome and announcements *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Chime Choir Anthem *Hymn of Promise* -- by Nathalie Sleeth;
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

***Call to worship** (from Matthew 10:29-31)

Not one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from their Creator.

God tells us we are of more value than many sparrows.

God knows us and loves us. Even the hairs of our head are all counted.

We praise you, O God! Grateful are we for your love and care!

***Opening Hymn # 275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

***Call to confession**

Before we hear the Word read and proclaimed, let us prepare our hearts through the confession of our individual and collective sins.

***Prayer of confession**

You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free our testimony. Help us be your faithful disciples. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

***Assurance of pardon**

Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem *As Tenderly As a Father* – by John Shepherd

Prayer for illumination

Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this discipleship road. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open us to discerning your will and your way. Amen.

Scripture readings Genesis 21: 8 – 21; Matthew 10: 24 - 33

Sermon *The Oaks of Mamre*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

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

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Hymn # 661 *His Eye Is on the Sparrow

***Call for the offering** (Hebrews 13:16)

Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Offertory *Faith of our Fathers* – arr. Phillip Keveren

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

***Prayer of dedication**

Take our hearts, our hands, our gifts, Holy God. Mold us, shape us, send us, so that we might be your body in the world you so love. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Our Lord Jesus Christ called God his heavenly Father and Joseph his earthly father. Let us come before our heavenly Father with our gratitude, praying for God's blessing and offering up all our experiences with our earthly fathers in prayer.

Gracious God, we pray your blessing upon the fathers, step-fathers, adopted fathers, and grandfathers of our lives.

Good God, bless our fathers.

We pray for your blessing upon our uncles, brothers, mentors, and friends who have been our examples and role models.

Bless them, O Lord.

We pray for your strength for men who are tired and weary each day, yet who feel the weight of responsibility upon them.

Strengthen them, O Lord.

We pray in gratitude for the fathers who have cared for us, protected us, guided us, and taught us.

We thank you, O Lord.

We lift up the imperfections of our fathers, who tried the best they could, who did not know how to try, and who made mistakes along the way.

Forgive them and uphold them, O Lord.

We pray your blessing upon the men in our lives that they will follow the example of Joseph, the father of Jesus, to live godly, creative, and loving lives.

We thank you, O God, and we bless you.

We bless you for the care we have received and ask that you will hold us in the totality and complexity of our experience. We have known joy and care, and we have known failure and pain. Turn our hearts to you that we may see you as our perfect, heavenly Father, from whom all life freely flows. In the name of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God in glory everlasting.

Amen.

In your mercy, Beloved God, hear the prayers of your people. Now, as the Body of Christ, we pray as Christ taught us, saying “**Our Father ...**”.

Hymn of Sending # 326 *For All the Saints

Charge and benediction

God, bless us. Jesus, walk with us. Holy Spirit, guide us.

As we leave this house of worship may the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and always. **Amen.**

Postlude *God of Our Fathers*

Jessye Whitis, Music Director & Pianist; Bruce Vineyard, Chime Choir Director;
Arthur McPhail, Liturgist

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Portions of Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott.