



Order of Worship

7th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026



Welcome and announcements *Great is thy Faithfulness*

Prelude *Sing Praise to God, who Reigns Above* – arr. Lloyd Larson

***Call to worship** (Psalm 68:7-10, 32)

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked,
**the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God,
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of
Israel.**

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

*** Hymn of Praise # 2** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

***Call to confession**

Our hallelujahs are robust and loud on Easter Sunday, but a few weeks in, we begin to forget the promises of the Resurrection. Nonetheless, God stands always ready to restore us to wholeness. With the confidence of God's beloved, let us confess our sins, knowing that the God who hears us, loves us, and will forgive and renew us. Let us confess together — first in unison and then in silence.

***Prayer of confession**

Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us.

Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray, and make us again as you would have us be. We make all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

(Silence is kept)

Assurance of pardon (2 Corinthians 4:14-15)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Believe the promise of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Choral Anthem *All Things Bright and Beautiful* – arr. by Julie Knowles

Prayer for illumination (Psalm 19:14)

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

Scripture readings Isaiah 45: 1 – 7; John 17: 1 – 11

Sermon *Deus Absconditus*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

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

**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.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,**

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn of Response # 450 *Be Thou My Vision

***Call for the offering**

In a time when affordability is challenging for many people, it is often tempting to dwell on scarcity and to believe that there simply is not enough to go around. Our faith acknowledges and certifies that God has given us more than we can ever need, from the overflowing of His love. Consequently, the people of God are invited to affirm that love with our offerings.

Offertory *The Gift of Love* – arr. John Carter

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

***Prayer of dedication**

Almighty God, you have seen to our needs. We return this portion of our riches, we offer these prayers, and we remember the gift of time you have given us as tokens of our commitment to know you, to love you, and to serve you. Bless these gifts, multiply and use them, and may we be blessed ourselves as we see your work in our midst, Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, you have blessed us in order that we might share those blessings in turn, and so it is from the vantage point of knowing that we are your beloved children that we continue in prayer, knowing that you want to hear us, and should our words fail, that you will pray for us with sighs too deep for words.

We pray for the world and all that are in it. You made the universe and all that is in it from the overflowing of your love. And so, we know that there is not a blade of grass, nor a bird or animal, that is not precious to you. Teach us to remember that all of creation is

precious in your eyes. Make us mindful of what it means to be stewards of the earth, not merely to see it as our dominion.

We pray for our neighborhoods and schools and homes. May the countless gifts of love that you have showered upon us enable us to manifest your grace in untold ways.

Finally, we pray for the church. May we be fed, and in thus being fed, may we feed others. For it is for these reasons that you have called us into being and call us even still to lives of goodness and wholeness, for the life of the world you came to save. And now, with the confidence of children of God, we conclude with the words our savior taught us: “**Our Father...**”

Hymn of Departure # 700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Charge and benediction

Go now as God's beloved, the church for whom Jesus prayed, and offer our lives as prayers of response to all the ways God has blessed us. As we go, may the grace, mercy, and fellowship of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, abide with us always.

Amen.

Postlude *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Jessye Whitis, Music Director, pianist; Kay Atwood, liturgist

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Liturgy written by Baron Mullis.