



Order of Worship

18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026



Gathering and Announcements *This is My Father's World*

Chime Choir *In Christ Alone* – arr. Sandra Eithun

***Call to worship**

Why do you come to this place?

We seek the path of righteousness and truth.

Do you come ready to hear and learn giving attention to
God's Word?

**We come with open hearts and minds seeking to learn
from the one whose authority is founded on God's love.**

Friends, lend your ears and open your hearts because this is
God's house, built by love and sustained by hope, where God
seeks to align our work and witness.

***Opening Hymn # 273** *He is King of Kings*

***Call to confession**

What burdens your spirit? What regret or hurt do you carry
today? Together, let us confess that which does not give us
life and take up, instead, the love and grace of God.

***Prayer of confession**

**Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know
the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You
know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for
gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news
of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions.
We imprison ourselves with the assumption that you will
judge us as mercilessly as we often judge ourselves and
one another.**

**Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to
live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of
people who have heard good news and remind us that
even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done.
Amen. (Silence is kept)**

***Assurance of pardon**

Friends, believe this good news, in Christ we are new creations. We are forgiven; we are set free; and we are made ready to live the living Word. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem *We Will Come to Praise the Lord* – Berta & Sonja Poorman

Prayer for illumination

God of life and light, illumine our hearts and spirits and attune us to the reading and hearing of your word. May our hearing be discerning and may this proclamation be faithful and, in all things, may we approach your word with joy and humility. Amen.

Scripture readings Psalm 78: 1 – 4; Philippians 2: 1 – 13; Matthew 21: 23 - 32

Sermon *A Little Talk With A Big Jesus*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

***Affirmation of faith** (adapted from A Declaration of Faith)

**Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement.
His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion.
His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand.
His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness.
Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.**

**We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world
through this community of ordinary people,
therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church.**

**Christ is the head of the church,
therefore we are responsible to Christ
when we make policy and decisions in the church.**

**Christ is the foundation of the church,
therefore it will not fall despite our weakness.**

**We are confident that the Lord of the church
will judge and defeat our sinful intentions and actions,
help us in our weakness and blindness,
and use the church to accomplish his purposes.**

**Throughout its history the church has struggled
to be faithful to God in political situations:
under persecution,**

or as an established arm of the state,
or in separation from it.
God rules over both political and religious institutions.
We must confuse neither with the kingdom of God.
We must not equate the Christian faith
with any nation's way of life
or with opposition to the ideologies of other nations.
The church must be free to speak to civil authorities,
neither claiming expert knowledge it does not have,
nor remaining silent when God's Word is clear.

We testify God is at work here and now
when people obey Christ's commission
to witness to him and make disciples of all nations,
when they spread the good news by their words
and embody it in their lives.

Hymn of Response # 264 *At the Name of Jesus

Call for the offering

Friends, we are all in this together and it is only together that the work of Christ in this church is done. I welcome you to prayerfully and joyfully bring your tithes and offerings for the work of the church in the world.

Offertory *Amazing Grace* -- arr. Mark Hayes

Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Prayer of dedication**

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of the ages, hear your people as we turn to you now with the joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, triumphs and tragedies of our lives and our world.

Our prayers begin in the nearness of our own being.

Hear us, oh God, as we pray with voices, silent, or voices allowed the prayers of our hearts...

Listening God, **hear our prayer.**

For those drawn close to us, our family, our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers, we pray, O God, that you would hear their prayers and attend to their needs as only you can.

Listening God, **hear our prayer.**

For our community of faith and the community that surrounds us, may walls and divisions constructed with human hands cease to be excuses for our failure to build community together. May the gospel we share and proclaim within these walls, be the watchword of our lives beyond them. And the words we say and the work we do be their witness to the hope of Christ in this community.

Listening God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray all of these things in the name of the one who builds up the oppressed and turns tables on the powerful, whose authority is found in faithfulness not in force, who extends a hand of welcome rather than a finger of accusation to sinners like us, Jesus Christ our hope in this and in every day.

Listening God, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us now as we pray the way Christ taught us boldly saying together, "**Our Father...**" *(Prayer by Teri McDowell Ott)*

Hymn of Sending # 300 *We Are One in the Spirit

Charge and benediction

Go into the world, my friends and fellow disciples, to proclaim, in word and deed, the gospel of Christ. May the love of Christ, the faithfulness of God, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit guide, encourage, and keep us today and every day. And in one voice may all God's children say: **Amen!**

Postlude *King Jesus is His Name*

Music Director & Pianist, Jessye Whitis; Chime Choir Director,
Bruce Vineyard: James Whitis, Liturgist