



*Order of worship*

7th Sunday After Pentecost

**July 19, 2020**

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**Call to worship** (*Psalm 139:1-6*)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

**Call to confession**

We read in Romans that all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. We seek to be led by the Spirit to the God who created and loves us. Even before a word is on our tongues, God knows it, and welcomes our honest confession and true repentance with forgiveness and the promise of new life. Let us then with the confidence of the children of God confess our sin to God.

**Prayer of confession**

Lord of all, we are quick to judge others, certain we know what is weed and what is wheat around us, even as we fail to see within us that which does not bear good fruit. We confirm our biases, listen only to those who agree with us and assume your will equates with our own. We confess that we do not like to acknowledge the many ways we fail to follow your commandment to love you and our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, for forgetting that everyone is created in your image and therefore worthy of our compassion. In your mercy, amend what we are and shape us into the people you call us to be. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



### **Assurance of pardon**

Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. We need not fear God's judgment but rather rejoice in the Lord's saving grace that frees and transforms us.

Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

### **Prayer for illumination**

Lord God, the knowledge that you are always with us, never abandon us, right now pray for us, is truly too wonderful for us to comprehend. We can only give thanks for your sure presence and ask to hear rightly your word that guides, instructs, encourages and forms us. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

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

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
Preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.



### **Call for the offering** *(based on Isaiah 44:6-8)*

God asks: “Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.” We know that no one is like our God, who made heaven and earth, whose mercies are new every morning. In gratitude and praise we offer a portion of the resources entrusted to us as a sign of our loyalty and faith to the Lord of hosts, the first and the last.

### **Prayer of dedication**

Lord, we give thanks to you with our whole hearts, mindful that you hem us in and hold us up. Even when the world feels chaotic and the future uncertain, we trust in your power to save, your promise to be a light unto our path. We pray that these gifts given in faith and thanksgiving will be used to encourage those lagging in hope and provide for those overwhelmed with worry. Bless and multiply these offerings so that all will know your goodness. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer**

This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. Wherever we are, God is present with us, we are united in Christ and the Spirit intercedes for us. There is nowhere we can flee from God’s Spirit and nothing we cannot speak to our Creator. In this time and place, we share the hopes of our hearts, the questions on our minds and the worries that keep us up at night. We pray to the Lord our God who is like no other, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the one in whom we live and move and have our being.

Lord, from whom we cannot flee, we ask you for wisdom in the face of ever-growing uncertainties. We remember those in our midst and those known only to you who are consumed with fear — fear not only for their livelihoods, but for their very lives. Grant us the resolve to do whatever is required for everyone to have enough to eat, a safe place to live, the ability to get the care they need and an education that values individuals and creates a society of people of character. Do not let our imagination fall short of your ability to make all things possible.

Loving God who searches and knows us, reveal to us those places in our hearts that need to be broken so that we might go to the places in the world that break your heart. Do not let us turn away from the people who need to know they are not alone. Ease the loneliness of those unable to see their families and those without family. Expand the household of faith

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to include all those on the margins of our society, the imprisoned and the impoverished, those who have been neglected and those seeking asylum and safety. Do not let us reject those whom Jesus came to save.

Generous God who overwhelms us with goodness and mercy, we thank you for waking us up this day, giving us the gift of this life, calling us to be your people. When we are tempted to judge others harshly, remind us to forgive as we have been forgiven. When we feel paralyzed with doubt or awash in anxiety, grant us the peace that passes understanding. When we do not know what to do or where to turn, make your word a light unto our path so that we can take one step closer to Christ as he leads us in the way everlasting.

We make our prayer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to say when we pray, *Our Father ...*

**Charge and benediction** (From "The Book of Common Prayer")

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;

and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful and will do this.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.

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