



Order of worship

July 11, 2021

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Call to worship (*Psalm 85:10-11*)

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Call to confession (*Amos 7:7-15*)

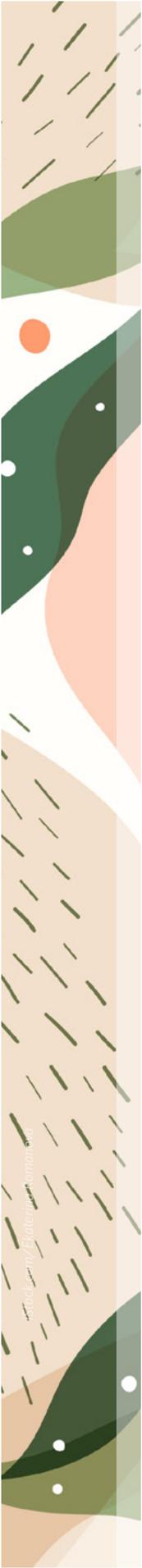
Will we hear the prophet's words? When we stand next to God's plumb line, will we be truthful about how we do not measure up? Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.

Prayer of confession

Holy God, you send prophetic truth-tellers to shed light on the ways we have failed, the ways we need to grow, the ways we can be and become better. Yet, we turn from these harsh truths. We avoid situations where we might receive constructive criticism. We disempower people whose voices are necessary for our own growth and liberation. Forgive us, we pray, and help us become willing listeners to your prophets, to people of different perspectives and to those bold enough to preach and speak the truth. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (*Isaiah 43:1*)

God says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Amen.



Prayer for illumination

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

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

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**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.**

Call for the offering

God's abundance cannot be matched. Still, we are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.



Prayer of dedication

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of healing and wholeness, as the world is opening, people are traveling, and our faces are once again being seen from behind our masks, it would be easy to forget:

where we've been,
what we've learned,
who we've lost.

Help us, Holy God, not to be so desperate to move forward that we fail to appreciate the present:

the communion of friends gathering,
the sounds of children summering,
the open road of vacation adventuring.

Help us, Holy God, not to be so desperate to move on that we neglect to pray for those still suffering:

the businesses forced to close,
employees laid off,
families grieving loved ones lost,
COVID patients still waiting for renewed health,
countries without access to vaccines.

Help us, Holy God, embrace the lessons we have learned, the grace we have received, and the hope you offer every day, but especially in the tough and tragic days when we lean on our faith to get us through. You are here for us, God, and we are grateful. Help us be here for each other — acting as your hands and feet in a hurting world.

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers up to you, God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, *Our Father...*



Charge and benediction

Following God's Spirit out into the world,
may we go in grace, go in peace, go in God's love for us all.

May God bless you and keep you.
May God be kind and gracious to you.
May God look upon you with favor
and bring you peace.
Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
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