



## Order of worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost

**August 29, 2021**

---

### **Call to worship** (*James 1:19-25*)

Let us not deceive ourselves.

**Let us look at ourselves in the mirror.**

Let us look at ourselves in light of God's law.

**Let us be quick to listen and slow to speak.**

Let us worship God.

### **Call to confession** (*Psalm 15:1-2*)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right.

Let us confess all that keeps us from dwelling with God.

### **Prayer of confession**

Holy God, your truth is oftentimes hard to hear. We confess our avoidance, our purposeful distractions, our prideful arrogance that keeps us from hearing and responding to your Word. Although you send us messages and messengers, we dismiss and disregard those who tell us we are wrong. Have mercy upon us, Holy God. Open us to hearing the truth no matter how it is conveyed. Amen.



### **Assurance of pardon** (*Book of Common Worship*)

Hear the Good News!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ,  
and Christ died for us,  
Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us,  
Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ  
is a new creation.

The old life has gone;  
a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven  
and be at peace.

Amen.

### **Prayer for illumination**

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word  
read and proclaimed. Prepare us now to listen well. Open  
our ears to your truth. Humble us in your presence, God, so  
nothing will stand in the way of what you will say to us today.  
Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**



**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.

**Call for the offering**

Our God is a generous God. Let us give and live generously in response to all that God has done for us. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

**Prayer of dedication**

Eternal God, you bless us with abundant gifts. Receive these tokens of our gratitude and use them to fulfill your will. May the gifts we give support Christ's work and ministry in this world. Amen.



## Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of grace,  
Nourish us this day through Word and worship. Strengthen our desire to discern and do your will. Focus us on your path of righteousness so we can walk steadily under your direction. Bend your ear to us, God of love, as we pray not only for ourselves but for people everywhere.

God of mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for those whose work leaves them exhausted and dissatisfied, for those struggling to pay bills and to put food on the table, for those consumed by endless tasks and daily chores, for those in need of a lighter load.

God of mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for leaders, administrators and decision-makers who carry a heavy mantle and who cannot please everyone, yet who still strive to do what is good and right. We pray our nation's leaders uphold those in need, defend the oppressed and do not succumb to the idols of money and power. We pray for disputes to end, for people to work together, for our nation to know peace.

God of mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for those who are ill and those who care for the ill. Bless our doctors, nurses and medical staff with reserves of strength and endurance. Bless the patients filling our hospitals with healing and hope. Bless those working on our behalf to curb the COVID-19 pandemic. Build among us, Holy God, a sense of mutual responsibility for the health and safety of our communities, our nation and our world.

O God, in your loving purpose, give us the will to be the answer to the prayers we pray, for the sake of the One who saves, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**

May we leave this house of worship today,  
quick to listen,  
slow to speak,  
open to hearing and responding to God's truth.

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

Amen.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2021.

Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott,  
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,  
visit [pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org).