



Order of Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022

Call to worship (“Amazing Grace,” *Glory to God* #649)

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Call to confession

We often get lost, wandering off the path of faith.
Through this time of confession, let us redirect
ourselves and return to God.

Prayer of confession

Holy God, we turn from you and frequently lose our way.
We get ourselves so turned around by temptations that
seduce and steal our hearts. We excuse our mistakes and
missteps with arguments that just don't add up. Forgive us.
Find us. Restore us as your people. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (From the *Book of Common Worship*)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed.
Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid and distract
ourselves from your message. Help us be receptive to the
wisdom you offer. 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.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

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

Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

We gather today, Creator God, by the prompting of your Spirit, drawn to this sanctuary by your will and your desire for us to worship together as a community. Each of us, connected as a family of faith, related by our common bond as children of yours, bring to worship our own burdens. Hear our petitions as we lift our prayers of personal concern as well as those of our world, nation and community.

In your mercy, God of grace, hear our prayers for our world. We pray for the people of Ukraine, for the end of violence and the use of oppression as a way to control and coerce. We pray for peace and justice to be the rule of the land. We pray for the poor, the refugee, and the asylum seeker; for the hungry, the houseless, and the sick. In a world of such abundance, hear our prayers for a restructuring of economies and for jubilee debt relief so that all your people may flourish.

In your mercy, God of peace, hear our prayers for our nation. We remember the pain and loss of September 11th today — every anniversary an occasion for prayer, every remembrance a living grief. We pray for the generations affected by this tragedy, those who still harbor the trauma of unspeakable violence, those still grieving the lives lost. We pray for the innocents who witnessed the violence humans can perpetrate one to another. Lord, have mercy upon us. Turn us wholeheartedly to your path of peace.

continued on the next page

Floods continue to decimate homes and lives. Wildfires rage. Storms devastate. God, your creation is powerful and worthy of our respect. Help us care for our planet as our precious home. Encourage our leaders towards initiatives that are environmentally just. Help us to help those – the poorest among us – who are most affected by our poor stewardship of natural resources. Help us all remember our responsibility to you, to each other, to our planet.

United as a community of faith and as the Body of Christ, we lift these prayers up to you, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Hear us as we join our hearts and our voices in praying the prayer Christ taught us to pray by saying, “Our Father...”.

Charge and benediction

Once we were lost, but now we are found.
Thanks be to the God who searches for the lost.
Let us respond to this grace by offering it to others.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all. Amen.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2022.

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

For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org