

# Order of Worship

Second Sunday after Pentecost  
June 11, 2023

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## Call to worship (Based on Psalm 33:1-5)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you God's beloved;

**Sing to God a new song!**

For the word of the Lord is upright,

**And all God's work is done in faithfulness.**

Our God loves righteousness and justice;

**The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

## Call to confession

God promises to love us and forgive us, not because we are righteous or law-abiding, but simply because we are. Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us confess our sin together.

## Prayer of confession

Merciful God, you are always drawing the circle of your love wider, but often we resist. You tell us that all people are your beloved, and we ask, "Why?" "Why them?" "**Even them?!**" We are quick to judge others rather than being grateful that we, too, are included in the fold. We prioritize the privileged, the powerful and the people who look and act right, but you extend grace first to the sinner, the outcast and the marginalized. Forgive us, O God. Transform us, that we may show mercy as you show mercy. Amen.

## Assurance of pardon

When the woman touched Jesus' cloak, he told her, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." Indeed, we are made well and whole, not because of ourselves, but through the grace of God!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

## Prayer for illumination

God beyond all knowing, you are shrouded in wonder and mystery and yet as close to us as our very breath. By your Spirit, illuminate our hearts and minds through your Word, that we may follow you more faithfully. Amen.



## Scripture readings

## Sermon

### Affirmation of faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
the realization of true humanity.  
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew,  
lived among his own people,  
sharing their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.  
Expressing God's love in word and deed,  
he became a friend to sinners,  
and a refuge for those cast aside.  
Many rejected him and demanded his death,  
but he gave himself freely,  
with mercy and love.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.  
The victim of sin became the victor,  
conquering death for all people.  
In Christ Jesus, love gets the final word.

### Call for the offering

God comes to us in grace; we respond in gratitude. Let us return to God a portion of what we have received.

### Prayer of dedication

Gracious God, you are the giver of all good gifts. Receive these offerings and use them for your work in the world until "thy kingdom come." Amen.

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

Covenant-making God, you meet us where we are and call us forth to follow you.

We give you thanks for the beauty of the earth. As summer comes, we thank you for the lengthening of days, the warming of waters, the excitement of children ready for a break. Help us to enjoy your creation, and from that place of joy, to be faithful stewards of the planet that sustains us.

We give you thanks for the loving community we find here in Christ's church. Strengthen us, teach us and empower us to faithful service in the world, so that our love may mirror your love, and our mercy your mercy.

We praise you, O God, for your sovereign care for your people. Before you, nations rise, fall, and wither like grass. Guide the leaders of nations, states, cities and towns in the ways of your justice, compassion, and mercy. May all who hold positions of authority seek your will, and in so doing tend to the welfare of all people.



We rejoice this morning with those who rejoice, even as we know that the morning does not bring joy for all your people. We pray for people living through war, violence or oppression. We pray for the hungry and the homeless; the sick, injured and grieving; those who feel lonely or afraid. We pray for immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and all people “on the move.”

As Jesus reached out and touched the people who came to him for healing, may we also reach out: our hands as your hands, our feet as your feet. Give us the grace to love and serve, to seek and listen, to pray and persist in righteousness and mercy.

This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: **“Our Father...”**

### **Charge and benediction**

Friends, go forth in hope, faith and love. Go forth to seek Christ’s face, for those who seek him will surely find. Go forth to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another.

And as you go, may Christ’s grace uphold you, may God’s love surround you, and may the Spirit’s energy sustain you, now and forever. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Ginna Bairby and provided for free distribution.

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