



# *Order of Worship*

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
June 25, 2023

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## **Call to worship** (From Matthew 10:29-31)

Not one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from their Creator.

**God tells us we are of more value than many sparrows.**

God knows us and loves us. Even the hairs of our head are all counted.

**We praise you, O God! Grateful are we for your love and care!**

## **Call to confession**

Before we hear the Word read and proclaimed, let us prepare our hearts through the confession of our individual and collective sins.

## **Prayer of confession**

You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free our testimony. Help us be your faithful disciples. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon**

Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed. Amen.

## **Prayer for illumination**

Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this discipleship road. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open us to discerning your will and your way. Amen.

## **Scripture readings**

## **Sermon**

## **Affirmation of faith** (from Book of Common Worship)

**Christ Jesus,  
though he was in the form of God,**





did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:  
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

### **Call for the offering** (Hebrews 13:16)

Do good and share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### **Prayer of dedication**

Take our hearts, our hands, our gifts, Holy God. Mold us, shape us, send us so that we might be your body in the world you so love. Amen.

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

God of summer,

This world is yours and we live according to your abundance. Wherever we wander during these June days – road trips to the beach, family camping trips, visiting friends and relatives – watch over our travels. May we reach our destinations safely and make our journeys with wonder at the blessings bestowed upon us by your amazing grace.

As we kneel in the dirt of our gardens, pulling the unwanted weeds, pruning the untamed overgrowth, may our harvest be plentiful and the smell of soil, air and sun spark joy. You give us enough to share, Holy God. Remind us of those who don't have enough and our ability to make a difference in their lives.

The heat and humidity can be oppressive, God. Perfect weather for those with access to a swimming pool. So we pray for those without access or excess. We pray for people without cool places of respite and refuge. We pray for those whose lives are threatened by the heat. We pray for the poor and impoverished of this country, as well as around the world. May we find ways to shelter and nurture all your children, Holy God.

Hear our thanks and praise for the blessings of this summer. Hear, also, our prayers for those who are struggling. Especially, we pray for:

- The people of warring countries
- Those who groan with grief





- Those who are isolated and alone
- Those who are sick and their caregivers
- Those who are overwhelmed and exhausted
- Those who – for whatever reason – cannot enjoy the blessings of summer

In your mercy, Beloved God, hear the prayers of your people. Now, as the Body of Christ, we pray as Christ taught us, **“Our Father ...”**

### **Charge and benediction**

God, bless us.  
Jesus, walk with us.  
Holy Spirit, guide us.

As we leave this house of worship may the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided  
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