



Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9, 2023

Call to worship

In this place, we gather to turn our hearts and minds to God.

We rejoice that the Triune God meets us here.

As we worship, we remember,

that we are the family of faith together!

Call to confession

When we come to worship God, we must first remember who we are, and we are people who often sin and turn from the ways of God. Relying on God's abundant grace, let us offer our confession together, knowing that we will be offered forgiveness in Christ.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, we are a people who often do the wrong thing, even when we want to do what is right. We have not cared for others as you have called us to, but we have been focused primarily on ourselves. We have been a people who are more divisive than uniting, more unkind than kind, and more rebellious than faithful. Forgive us, we pray and make us new to go forth and glorify you. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Hear the Good News! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Gracious God, for generations, your Word has brought love and life to your people. Speak to us now; we pray that we may hear, and in hearing, we may be transformed. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon





Affirmation of faith (from the PC(USA) Declaration of Faith)

**Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.
The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history, together
with his people's response in faith.
It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards
the kingdom of God,
his just and loving rule over all.
It is the story of the one God,
who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
That story is still unfolding, and in faith, we make it our own.
It forms our memory and our hope.
It tells us who we are and what we are to do.
To retell it is to declare what we believe.**

Call for the offering

In response to God's gracious action in our lives, we are called to give an offering to God. Our offering to God is our whole lives, including a part of what we have. Let us give an offering to God for God's purposes in our community and the world.

Prayer of dedication

Thank you, God, for all that we have and all that we are. We take these gifts given today and dedicate them ever and only to you. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, in Jesus, we are invited to come to you with our burdens, with the wearying concerns of our lives. Hear us now as we pray for the world around us.

Our national news is filled with stories of violence and harm. We live in a world in which many are in danger, and many seem unmoved by that fact. Change our moral consciousness Lord to one in which safety and preservation of life is our most important concern. May we each look deep into your Word, Lord, to find the ethic we will live by and work for your kingdom to come.

We pray for the sick or suffering people in our world and our community. We pray for your grace to be found in the unwanted diagnosis or medical news; may your love saturate the grief that news brings. For those who suffer from pain and discomfort, we pray that you will ease their suffering and give them fresh hope in the face of illness.

Lord, we ask that you look upon our relationships and families and strengthen them. Build up our marriages, reinforce our friendships, and bless the ties that bind us. Enable us to be the parents, grandparents, sons, and daughters you have called us to be. Bless our families — whether they are families of blood or choice.

And we ask that you guide this church into new life and health. Teach us each to live in such a way that the power of God working in us is evident to all. May all that we do as a church community and all that we do as individuals glorify you.



We ask this in Jesus' name and join our voices in the prayer that he taught us, saying, "**Our Father**"

Charge and benediction

May you be strengthened for the week ahead by the joy we have shared this day. May the words of hope resonate the whole weeklong. May you live for the glory of God.

And may the triune God surround us with love and care our whole lives long. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Tara W. Bulger and provided for free distribution.

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