

# Order of Worship

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 8, 2023

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## Call to worship (from Psalm 19)

The heavens are telling the glory of God

**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;

**their voice is not heard.**

Yet it goes out through all the earth

**and to the end of the world.**

## Call to confession (based on Philippians 3)

Whether you feel like you have a grasp on who you are or whether are questioning your identity. Whether you are new to this type of prayer or whether you've confessed a thousand times before. Whether you feel confident in the flesh or whether you know your shortcomings all too well. God meets us where we are, and God invites us into this prayer.

## Prayer of confession

Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in our abilities rather than in your love. We put our confidence in our belongings rather than in your generosity. We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in you.

Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to your Spirit and your will. Help us to follow your ways and find our freedom in your heavenly calling. Open us to new levels of trust and joy as we press on towards your goal.

## Assurance of pardon

Friends, we have not already obtained the prize or reached the goal — but Christ has! And in Christ you are a new creation, you are made whole and you are called beloved. Thanks be to God!

## Prayer for illumination (adapted from Psalm 19)

O Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.





## Scripture readings

## Sermon

### Affirmation of faith (adapted from Philippians 3)

**I know Christ. I am found in him. Nothing is gained in this life but him. I know the power of his resurrection. I know the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death and I know that, according to his great mercy, we will attain the resurrection from the dead through him.**

### Call for the offering

God is generous beyond measure. With thanksgiving for God's generosity in our lives, let us be generous as we offer ourselves and our resources in response to God's Word given to us today.

### Prayer of dedication (based on Psalm 19)

Sweet Savior, your Word is greater to us than gold, even great gold. May these gifts brought today be a gesture of our gratitude for the riches of your Word given to us. Multiple these gifts and make them like the drippings of the honeycomb to those in need.

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

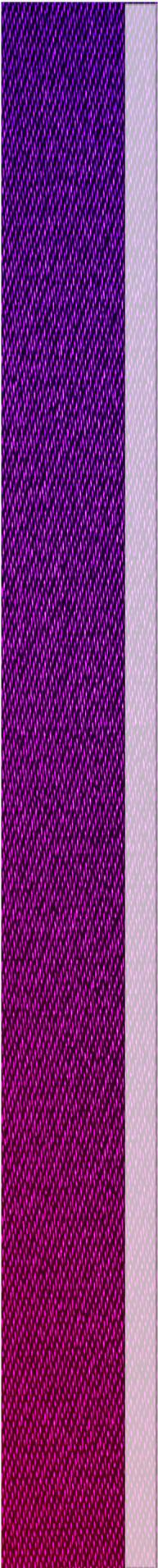
O Holy One, you speak to us from smoky mountains and from thunderous lightening. You speak to us through the sounds of whispers and the sounds of the trumpets. You speak to us from the proclamations of the firmament and from the drippings of honeycomb. You speak to us, and we listen, Holy God. So, we humbly ask you once again to speak now, for we are ready ...

As we witness your presence in this world, we stand in awe. For your gracious acts of compassion, we are grateful. For your providential provision of needs, we say thanks. For those labors of love happening all around us in which we see your Spirit shining, we smile and bask in your glory.

But for those places in which we see hurt, we ask for your healing. For those places in which we see unfairness, we ask for your justice. For those places in which we see pain or loss or distress, we ask for your restoration. For those places in which we see wrongdoings, we ask for what you see as right to begin right away. We ask for these things because we see them and we know that you see them too. We also know you see more than we can even begin to imagine — so we pray for your pervasive presence to permeate there as well.

Send us out as your people to follow your commands, to show a better way, to live together in community, and to promote human flourishing in this world for everybody. Open our eyes to see what you see and open our hearts to participate in your what your Spirit is already busy with. May we be bold in our discipleship as we leave here today, and may we be bold in praying the prayer you taught to all your disciples before we go: **"Our Father ..."**.





## Charge and benediction

May you follow the commandments. May you know Christ and his power. May you share with the heavens and proclaim with the firmament the glory of our God. And may go forth with the blessing of God — our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

