



Order of Worship

13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 18, 2024

Call to worship (Psalm 111:1-4)

Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the congregation.

**Great are the works of the Lord
studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds,
The Lord is gracious and merciful.**

Call to confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us. Christ
prays for us. With such assurance, we need not fear confession, but
simply draw near to our maker in candor.

Prayer of confession

**Almighty God,
you have raised Jesus from death to life
and sent his Spirit to be with us always.
We confess that we have not trusted in
the truth of that Spirit to enliven our hearts,
to set us in the ways of justice,
and to free us from fear.
We have turned away from the gift of Christ's presence.
Forgive us,
and turn our hearts back to you,
that we may be your faithful and loving people,
walking in the footsteps of the One
who came to transform the world.**

Assurance of pardon (from Ephesians 4:31-32)

Put away from you all bitterness
and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander,
together with all malice,





and be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.

For in Jesus Christ,
we are fully and forever forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

O God, as we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit
to enliven our lives and ministries,
take the shades from our eyes,
the stoppers from our ears,
and the shields from our hearts
so that we can hear and see and feel anew
the truth and life-giving power
of your Word.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from the Confession of 1967)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners. The power of God's love to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

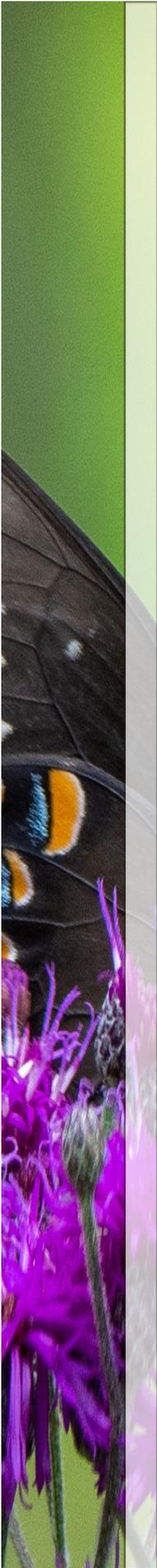
Call for the offering

O taste and see that the Lord is good,
and happy are those who take refuge in him.
Surrounded and fed by God's goodness,
let us return of the gifts
that we have received in abundance.

Prayer of dedication

We present these gifts, O Lord,
asking that you will use them through the church
to spread the abundance of
your love and justice
in the world,





that all may taste your goodness.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

All-loving God, creator, redeemer and sustainer of our lives, you are Truth, Grace and Love.

For your presence with us, we are deeply grateful. Grateful for this earth, our home. For this church, our sanctuary and our community. For each other, our neighbors and for strangers that would become neighbors. And for our calling, our vocation to go into all the world in your name to serve those in need, to companion the lone and the lost. To befriend the friendless. To try to speak and do what is just, and what is loving.

We are thankful for music, for the beauty of color, for silence, for the truth of diversity and variety in the fabric of your world. We are grateful for the changing seasons of the year, for growth and for fading, for sea and sky, for the cycling of days. For those with whom we share the world, and for those we love and those who love us.

We pray that there may be more places of sanctuary in the world. Safety from the horrors of war. Safety from the violence of guns. Safety from the ravages of power that excludes the poor, the hungry, the old, the sick, the differently abled. Safety for those who feel unseen, unheard, unattended by love. We pray especially this day for the safety of children, whether they are in Israel, in Gaza, in Ukraine, in Darfur, or in our own towns and cities. And for the safety of the world's seas and lands and wildlife, that they may have places of sanctuary from destruction and extinction.

We honor the Indigenous peoples who lived here and loved this land long before we were here. May we hold their sorrow and face honestly the damage our ancestors perpetrated. May we honor the beauty of their tradition and learn its wisdom.

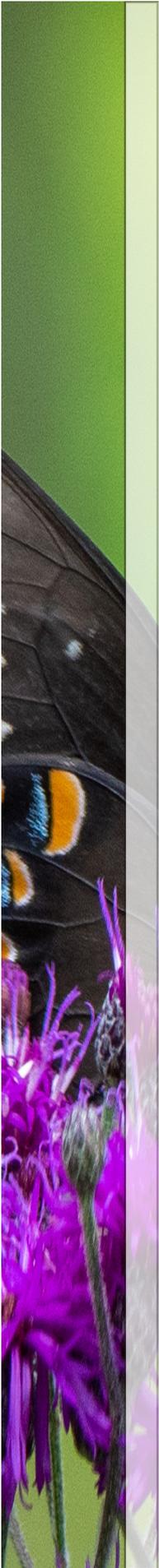
As the natural world around us comes to its season of fullness and harvest, we are grateful for food, for daily bread, for the abundance of the land, for those who farm and harvest its good fruits. May all your people and creatures feed in abundance, and taste and smell the fragrance of earth's produce. Show us ways to share the bounty that we have.

We pray today for those who have recently lost those they love. For those who approach the end of life. For those who are sick and long for healing. Comfort them, calm their fears, heal their bodies and their spirits with your loving presence. May they see the sure sign of resurrection in the tiny seed planted in the earth, now grown to abundant harvest, and may they experience the hope of new life promised by your Son.

For we know, dear God, that we are never alone; that peace touches our hearts; that love holds our hands; that you are near, our living heart. And so, on this Sabbath day, prepare our way into the ministry you call us to take up.

We pray this and all our prayers, in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying together, **"Our Father ..."**.





Charge and benediction

Here we have tasted the goodness of the living bread,
and been filled with the power of God's Word.

Now go into the world to share
the abundance of new life in Christ.

And may the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and may God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
remain with you always.
Amen.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2024
Liturgy written by Barbara Chaapel and provided for
free distribution.

For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org

