



Order of Worship

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 2024

Call to worship (based on Psalm 19 & Wisdom of Solomon 7.26-8.1)

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

With Wisdom, we rejoice, knowing the streets are full of God's glory!

The sky proclaims God's handiwork.

With Wisdom, we rejoice, worshiping in the sanctuary of creation!

The ways of the Holy One make wise the simple.

With Wisdom, we rejoice, sharing in the oneness of love.

Let's worship the Holy One in the streets, sanctuaries and squares!

Call to confession

Let us trust God's mercy and enter the liberating waters of forgiveness and grace. Together, let us boldly confess our sins and acknowledge our need for forgiveness.

Prayer of confession

You call out to us, Holy God, from city streets, town squares and cattle gates, but we refuse to listen. Preoccupied with our projections of you, we fail to see how these thoughts disrupt our communion with each other. You offer an outstretched hand to join you in transforming our lives, but we deny such a dance with Divinity is possible, choosing complacency to your counsel. Forgive us, Logos of Love, when we ignore your unremitting call to live in the way of love. By your mercy, may we heed your call to examine our foolishness so we may live as fools for Christ's sake. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Beloved friends, receive the good news: the Risen Christ enters all corners of our lives and declares us forgiven.

Having been forgiven, we take up Wisdom's way of knowing, embracing it as we journey toward wholeness and peace. Thanks be to God.





Prayer for illumination

Speak to us, Spirit of Knowledge, so that we may focus on divine things. Pour out your Wisdom upon us so we may respond by taking up our cross and following you. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from *The Confession of 1967*)

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 divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful [people]. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Call for the offering

In Mark, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" This question serves as a call to action for us to express and share the transformative and healing love of God that we experience in our lives through our generous giving of tithes and offerings.

Prayer of dedication

God who witnesses the cries and shouts of creation and receives our tithes and offerings. May our streets be filled with jubilation, our cities be embraced by peace, and our lives be blessed with abundance. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

From before the world's foundations, your love is the energy of our lives. Your Wisdom, present and at play in the spaces between, radiates your generative creativity.

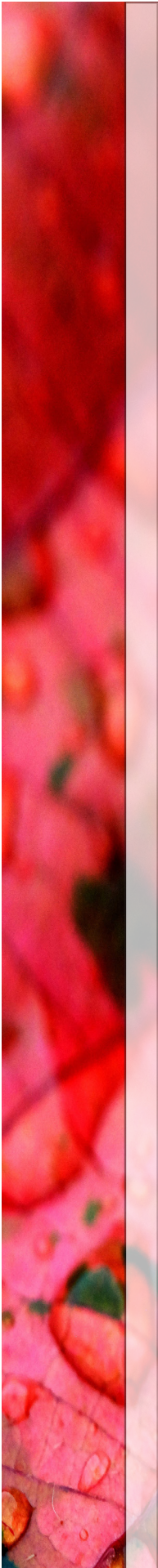
Thank you, God of Transitions, for the movement of the seasons. As we sense the shift from summer to autumn, we thank you for the gift of letting go and for reminding us there's a season for everything.

Just as we anticipate astonishment inspired by colorful leaves, we express gratitude for the respite and shade they offer in the summer. We cherish the final visits from our hummingbird companions to our feeders as we welcome the distant calls of Canadian Geese embarking on their migratory voyage. We are grateful for shifting rhythms.

Glory be to you, God who makes all things new.

Almighty God, who knows the intricate dance of the constellations and fosters oneness within communities, be with those experiencing hopelessness and tragedy due to the apathy and ignorance of others. We pray for peace among the world's nations and commit to leveraging power for the well-being of all. We pray for the church universal's humility. May we and advocate boldly for those who have been oppressed by deceptive forms of grace.





We pray exploitative practices wounding the environment be disrupted in favor of a harmonious and faithful relationship with nature. We pray for our country and neighbors; may we reimagine our resources for the well-being and liberation of all. Where our churches and community ignore the cries and shouts of those longing for collective care, we pray for new directions.

Hear these prayers from your people, God, as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us ... **“Our Father who art in heaven....”**

Charge and benediction

God sends us to cities and squares, corners and gates;

we go listening for the words of the prophets.

The Risen Christ goes before us to proclaim good news;

we follow, bearing witness to the lives around us.

The Spirit of Love accompanies into the playground of creation;

we join her in becoming the beloved community.

The Trinity holds us in all variety, complexity, and diversity of love.

In the embrace of their sacred dance, we reside with profound wisdom and deep understanding, loving as they love us.

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Liturgy written by Adam Quine and provided for free distribution.

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