



# *Order of Worship*

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 23, 2025

---

## **Call to worship** (from Psalm 37:39-40)

**Our salvation is from the Lord;**

God is our refuge in times of trouble.

**The Lord helps us and rescues us;**

God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

## **Call to confession**

We have been called to love our God with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves, but our lives are constricted and self-consumed. We have failed to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves as we should. Let us make the good confession before God and others.

## **Prayer of confession**

**Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other “gods” — the false gods of prosperity and materialism, racial and ethnic privileging, gender exclusivity, and nationalistic imperialism. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. Amen.**

## **Assurance of pardon**

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — God's radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love will not let us go and is ever bringing resurrection and new life. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. Thanks be to God!

## **Prayer for illumination**

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the Scripture we are about to hear will become God's Word for us in this day and age. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.





## Scripture readings

### Sermon

#### Affirmation of faith (from the Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

#### Call for the offering

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. God has given us life and resources for it, so let us give in return.

#### Prayer of dedication

O God, may these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth.

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

O God, you have commanded us to reach across deep divides and challenged us to love our enemies. You have also called us to pursue justice, stand with the marginalized, and call out evil, especially when we have been complicit in it. We hope to transform enemies into friends through these actions. You have called us not just to refrain from violence but to restrain hurtful and unkind words. Indeed, you have called us to ponder deep flourishing for all your children and for our planet. Empower us to live by your way in the world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy one, help us to be an embodiment of the peace that we pass to one another, and by so doing, may we be your peace in the world. We know too well our divisions based on gender, race, sexuality and class. Help us bear witness to a different reality. Help us begin the process of healing and deliverance. Help us form new ways of being in mutuality, love and justice with and through one another. Empower us to live out of your love in all that we do, healing divisions, addressing enmity, and reaching out to those we perceive as enemies. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of all nations, we pray for all countries around the globe — for those who have been charged to exercise leadership on behalf of the common good. Help them to discern wise use of resources to address the needs of citizens suffering from social, economic, and political oppression. And move us all to attend to the cries of the marginal in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.





We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, **“Our Father...”**

**Charge and benediction** (based on 1 Corinthians 15:48-49)

As those who are of dust and of heaven, bear the image of God into the world, lift up the brokenhearted and stand with the oppressed. Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as you love yourself. Amen.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2025

Liturgy written by Roger Gench  
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,  
visit [pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org)

