

Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 20, 2025

Call to worship

God calls us here to worship. We carry many worries and are distracted by many things, but here, in this time and place, we are invited to set them aside, to be fully present. Let's pause and take a deep breath.

We remember who we are:

We are the body of Christ.

We remember whose we are:

We are God's beloved children.

We remember our chief purpose:

To glorify and enjoy God forever.

Let us worship God!

Call to confession

Those who speak the truth from their heart abide in God's presence. Let us speak the truth now as we confess our sin together:

Prayer of confession

Holy God, we are pulled in many different directions. We are distracted by the news, quick to point fingers and pass judgment, but reluctant to examine the ways we benefit from the injustice in our world. We are distracted by our fears. We fear the loss of health, safety, and financial security. Instead of proclaiming your abundance, we operate from a mindset of scarcity. We are distracted by our tasks, by calendars that shape our priorities, leaving us with less time and energy for what is most important.

We confess our distraction, even as we acknowledge that sometimes we embrace it because it's easier than sitting at Jesus's feet, learning what it means to follow him. We confess that distraction is easier than discipleship.

Forgive us. Help us discern and choose the better path as we seek to follow Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.





Assurance of pardon

This good news will not be taken away: We are seen as God's beloved children, holy and blameless, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Let us live into this good news: we are forgiven!

Prayer for illumination

God of Wisdom, still our hearts and silence our distractions so that we can be fully present to your Word. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, let us hear what you have to say to us today, and give us the courage to listen and respond to your call. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Declaration of Faith)

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
personal lives that are centered in God
and open to God's reality and rule.
Christ teaches us
to put obedience to God
above the interests of self, family, race or nation;
to offer God joyously
our money, ability, and time.
It is part of our discipline
to observe a day of worship and rest,
setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work,
celebrating with our family in Christ the Lord's goodness.
We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture,
not expecting detailed directions for every decision,
but relying on the Word to tell us who God is,
to press God's present claim on us,
and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.**

Call for the offering

In Christ, we have received the better part, which will not be taken away. We offer our gifts with joy and gratitude. Freely we have received; now freely let us give.

Prayer of dedication

Abundant God, we give thanks for your grace and provision in our lives. Use these gifts to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community and the world. May they witness to your love and care for all people, as we offer our time and energy to do the same. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God, our loving Parent, you created us in love, and we are grateful for your continued loving care for each of us, and for all of creation. Help us embrace the invitation to sit at your feet and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

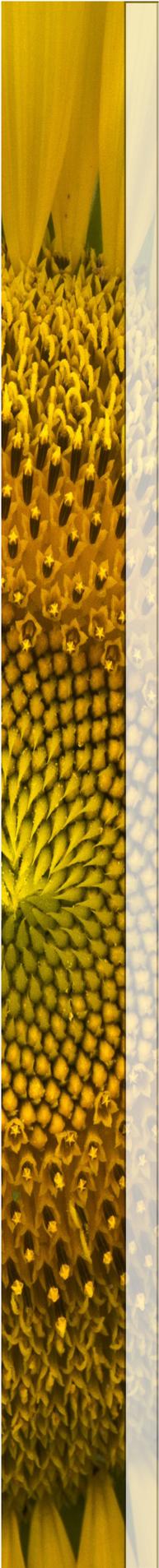
We give thanks for the gifts of the present, and for your presence with us. We thank you for the food that sustains our bodies and for the fellowship we share with others that sustains our souls. We give thanks for the work of so many people who have had a hand in the food that we eat. We thank you for farmers and harvesters, for factory workers and grocery store clerks, and we pray for their flourishing. We also pray for those who are hungry, for places where resources have been ravaged by natural and humanitarian disasters. We pray especially for the people of Gaza - for peace in the region, desperately needed assistance, and healing of the land and the people, so that houses can again be built, and fields planted.

We thank you for the beauty of your created world, and the creative spark that flows in each of us. We thank you for the time we have for rest and restoration, and recognize that many people do not have the same. We pray for those who are working all hours, expending energy and time to meet basic needs, and who still don't have enough to make ends meet. We pray for a world that enables all people the time and resources not only to meet basic needs, but to exercise their gifts of creativity and skill.

We thank you for your unending concern for justice and liberation for all people. We enjoy so many privileges that it can be easy to forget that so many continue to live under the weight of unjust systems and policies. None of us is free until we are all free. We pray for leaders in our communities and throughout the world to be inspired by your compassion and wisdom. Bring a change of heart and action where that is needed, and give us the courage to speak and act boldly to call our leaders and our community towards your beloved community and the healing of creation.

There are so many ways we are distracted from what is most important. Center us in your Holy Spirit and lead us to abide in relationship with you. Thank you for hearing our prayers, and for inviting us to bring our joys, cares and burdens to you. Hear the prayers of your people... (You may add specific prayer request from your congregation here).

Loving God, we offer these prayers to you, including those that remain on our hearts, and those known only to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, **"Our Father ..."**





Charge and benediction

Many tasks await us and distractions abound. Having been fed by the Word of God and refreshed and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we go from this place, renewed by our call to witness to and share God's love in a world that so desperately needs it.

As we do so, may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and always.
Amen.

