

Sunday Worship Service – August 16, 2026

Worship words from various resources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Worship ¹

When hatred and division separate us,
God's love binds us together.
When quarrels estrange us,
Christ's grace brings reconciliation.
When we feel excluded and left out,
The Spirit's peace eases our pain.
Come! Let us worship the One who makes us one.

Gathering Song “Kyrie Eleison” ² (verses 1-3)

Refrain: **Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.**
Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.

1. **For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! (Refrain)**
2. **That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! (Refrain)**
3. **For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! (Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession ³

Holy God, we do not understand why you keep on loving us. We hurt our loved ones. We turn our backs on need. We seek revenge for petty wrongs in petty ways. We do not understand why you keep on loving us. Yet even as we speak these words, we know your presence and your love.

¹ *Call to Worship* written by B.J. Beu, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

² Words and music by Dakota Road

³ *Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance* from **Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship**, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tiabassi © 1990 The Pilgrim Press, New York, NY

We are sorry, O God, for we know that sins against one another are sins against you. Make us strong and tender, we pray, that we may live more as you would have us live. Amen.

Words of Assurance

It is not to earn God's grace that we act justly; it is because God's great mercy shown in the self-giving of Jesus Christ frees us to be grateful. Filled with radiant gratitude, it becomes impossible for us knowingly to cause God pain. The experience of forgiveness makes our heart more like God's and more loving toward others. Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise “Oh, Praise the Gracious Power” #651 (verses 1-4, 7)

1. **Oh, praise the gracious pow'r that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near:**
Refrain: We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!
2. **Oh, praise persistent truth that opens fisted minds
and eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that blinds:** *(Refrain)*
3. **Oh, praise inclusive love, encircling ev'ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place:** *(Refrain)*
4. **Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ, our rock and cornerstone:** *(Refrain)*
7. **Oh, praise the living Christ with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world and with these words rejoice:**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray:

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category. A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the 56th chapter:

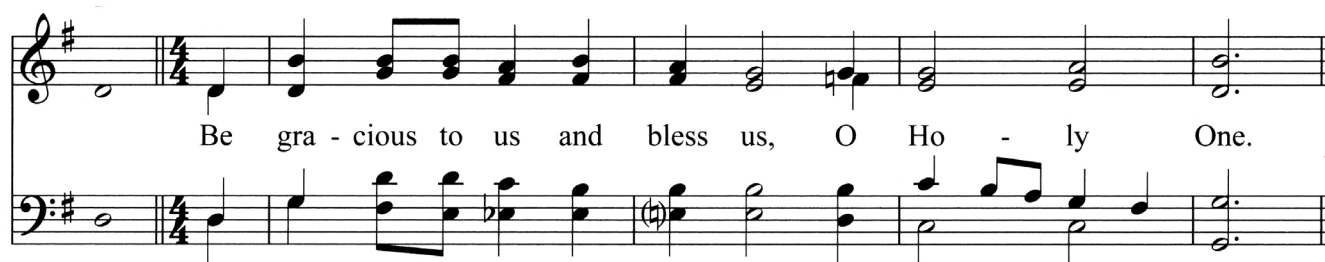
The LORD says: Act justly and do what is righteous,
because my salvation is coming soon,
and my righteousness will be revealed.

The immigrants who have joined me,
serving me and loving my name, becoming my servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure,
and those who hold fast to my covenant:
I will bring them to my holy mountain,
and bring them joy in my house of prayer.
I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my altar.
My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples,
says the LORD God, who gathers Israel's outcasts.
I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Psalm 67



O Holy One, be gracious to us and bless us;
let your face shine among us
so your way may be known in the world,
your saving help among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

Indeed, let all peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge with truth and justice,
and guide the nations of the world.

Let the peoples praise you, Holy One.

Indeed, let all peoples praise you.

May the earth yield its harvest.

May the Holy One, our God, bless us.

May God bless us,

and all the ends of the earth revere the Holy One. (Refrain)

Children's Message

Children are invited to the front with Pastor Dennis sharing a message.

Scripture Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-33

Having explained at great length in previous chapters that salvation is not achieved by keeping the Law of Moses, Paul insists that, nevertheless, God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all. A reading from the Letter to the Romans, the 11th chapter:

So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I'm an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God hasn't rejected his people, whom he knew in advance. Or don't you know what the scripture says in the case of Elijah, when he pleads with God against Israel?

God's gifts and calling can't be taken back. Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy too. God has locked up all people in disobedience, in order to have mercy on all of them.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation "Voice of Creation"

Voice of creation, open our ears to hear your word.

Source of salvation, open our hearts to hold your love.

Soul's inspiration, open our minds to know your grace.

Three in relation, transform our lives with your embrace.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:10-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, "Listen and understand. It's not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God's sight. It's what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person."

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?"

Jesus replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be pulled up. Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch.”

Then Peter spoke up, “Explain this riddle to us.”

Jesus said, “Don’t you understand yet? Don’t you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that’s what contaminates a person in God’s sight. Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. These contaminate a person in God’s sight. But eating without washing hands doesn’t contaminate in God’s sight.”

From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.” But he didn’t respond to her at all. His disciples came and urged him, “Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us.”

Jesus replied, “I’ve been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel.” But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

He replied, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and toss it to dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters’ table.” Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Sometimes a Crumb is Enough

Hymn of the Day “*She Came to Jesus*”⁴ (tune #793)

1. **She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.**

⁴ Text © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

2. Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.
3. God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

Affirmation of Faith ⁵

We believe in God the Father Almighty

**Creator of the heavens and the earth;
Creator of all peoples and all cultures;
Creator of all tongues and races.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,
God made flesh in a person for all humanity,
God made flesh in an age for all the ages,
God made flesh in one culture for all cultures,
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit

**Through whom God incarnate in Jesus Christ
makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures;
Through whom, God Creator of all that exists,
gives us power to become new creatures;
whose infinite gifts make us one people: the body of Christ.**

**We believe in the Church Universal because it is a sign of God's Reign,
whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues
where all the colors paint a single landscape,
where all tongues sing the same praise.**

**We believe in the Reign of God – the day of the Great Fiesta (Feast)
when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,
when all peoples will join in joyful banquet,
when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.**

⁵ *Hispanic Creed* from *The United Methodist Spanish Hymnal*, *Mil Voces para Celebrar*, written by Justo Gonzalez

**And because we believe, we commit ourselves:
to believe for those who do not believe,
to love for those who do not love,
to dream for those who do not dream,
until the day when hope becomes reality. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession ⁶

Tender and Compassionate God, you ask us to pray for all people. Here we offer our prayers for our world in need, trusting in your great love. Each petition will end with “through Jesus Christ we pray” and the congregational response “**Amen.**”

Let us pray for leaders of the church, including National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and Saskatchewan Synod Bishop Ali Tote:

Gracious God, lead our leaders. Grant them your wisdom, that by their acts they may encourage the faithful and witness to the world and its people; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who rule:

Eternal One, Ruler of the Universe, we pray for those who govern every land, and for the people committed to their charge. Look with grace upon the Prime Minister of our country, the Premier of our Province, and the legislators who guide our lives. Turn the hearts of leaders and peoples to you, that governments may seek the good of humanity and of all who suffer; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the homeless, the hungry, and victims of disaster:

God, you suffer with those who suffer. We pray to you for those who are denied what they need to live and those whose dreams have been shattered by war and disaster. We pray especially for those impacted by the earthquake in Colombia, and those impacted by the wildfires in Canada. Reach out and bring healing through the hands of your faithful people; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the sick and the grieving:

Holy comforter, healing Spirit, grant your peace to those who are sick and those who grieve, and especially (*names*). Radiate through their lives with the light of your presence, that renewed health and strength may be theirs; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

⁶ *Prayers of Intercession* from **Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship**, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tiabassi © 1990 The Pilgrim Press, New York, NY

Let us pray for our families and friends:

God in whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its name, we commend to your unfailing care all who are dear to us, that they may know you as a friend in joy and sorrow; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our enemies:

We pray to you, God, for those whose actions offend us most and for those whom we have learned to fear and despise. Through your great love, make tender all hearts hardened by hatred and suspicion, and work your justice among us; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Let us pray for ourselves:

God of hope and new life, help us to see the joy and abundant life you intend for us. Grant us your peace: peace which is not the absence of trouble, but the awareness of your guiding presence in all that we do; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Gathered as one in the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Offering⁷

We celebrate the ability to give for our fellowship, and to care for others.

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Offering Prayer

Join me in prayer:

**Receive our gifts, O God, and bless them. Give us joy in our giving,
satisfaction as we see our money go to work, and a reminder of all you have
given to us, in the life, death, and rising of Jesus. Amen.**

⁷ *Offering Prayer* from **Prayers to Share – Year A** © 2004 David Sparks, published by Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC.

Sending Hymn “*This Is My Song*” #887

1. **This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**
2. **My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev’rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**
3. **This is my prayer, O God of all earth’s kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.**

Blessing ⁸

There are, in our day, so many people who “cannot find God.”
And I tell you:
that God is in our future calling us;
that God is in our past forgiving us;
that God in isn the present loving us.
There is no greater blessing.

Benediction Song “*May the Grace of Christ Attend Us*” (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Beth Hendricksen

⁸ *Blessing* written by David L. Beebe, from **Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship**, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tiabassi © 1990 The Pilgrim Press, New York, NY