

Sunday Worship Service – July 19, 2026

Worship words from various resources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Worship ¹

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with laughter and songs of joy.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some from a sense of obligation or habit.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with hearts heavy with grief.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with distraction or exhaustion.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with eagerness and enthusiasm.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with stress, loneliness, or depression.
As God's dearly loved children,
we bring all our joy and pain, hurt and hope
into this place of Spirit-given grace, love, and hope.

Gathering Hymn *"Come, All You People"* #819

1. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.**
2. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.**
3. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.**

¹ *Call to Worship* from **The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition** © 2013 Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI.

Prayer of Yearning²

Abba God, as our heavenly parent,
 you have given us your words of direction
 to teach us how to live by eternal truths.
 Still, we struggle with the fleshly desires
 that slow our living into our most abundant lives.
 We ache for the breath of your compassion
 to restore us to spiritual health.
 Assist us to live in freedom instead of fear.
 Imbue our minds with deep compassion,
 that we may find fulfillment in caring for the world around us.
 Help us deal with the weeds of distrust, greed,
 anger, lust, isolation, jealousy, and egoism
 that manifest as abuses and the denigration of others.
 May we be increasingly strengthened as your children
 and shine like the sun in our hurting world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God searches and knows you. God is familiar with all your ways.
 God loves you as a precious child, making you co-heirs of glory and the
 multi-generational promises that free us from frustration and fill us with
 hope. Peace and hope are yours in the name of Christ. Amen.

Song of Praise “*The Lord of Light*”

1. The Lord of light is my salvation,
 Whom shall I fear? God is the source of life.
 Though wars may rage and pain surrounds you,
 Your heart will hope, God is the source of life.
2. The Lord of light is my salvation.
 Whom shall I fear? God is the source of life.
 Wait, be still. God's strong arms keep you.
 Wait, be strong. God is the source of life.

Bridge: For in the day of trouble,
 God will keep me safe.
 Though enemies surround me,
 I will sing to the Lord.

² *Prayer of Yearning* and *Words of Assurance* written by Anna Crews Camphouse, from **Abingdon Worship Annual**
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Final Verse: **The Lord of light is my salvation,
Whom shall I fear? God is the source of life.
The Lord of light is my salvation,
Whom shall I fear? God is the source of life.**

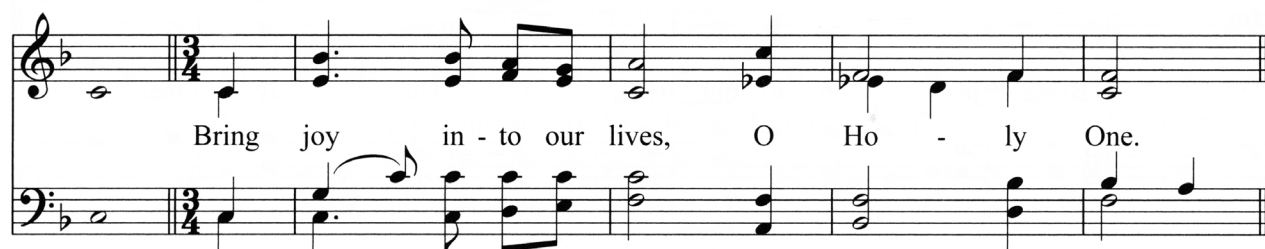
Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray:

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 86:11-17



Teach me your ways, Holy One,
that I may journey with your truth,
revering your name with undivided heart.
**Your faithful love for me is boundless;
you deliver my life from the depths of the grave. (Refrain)**

O God, arrogant men have risen against me,
a ruthless gang seeks my life.
They have no respect for you!
**But you, Holy One,
a compassionate and gracious God – slow to anger,
full of true and faithful love –
turn to me and be gracious to me.**

Give your strength to your servant!
Save your handmaid's child!
**Show me a sign that all will be well,
so those who hate me may find to their shame
that you, Holy One, have helped and comforted me. (Refrain)**

Children's Message

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

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:12-25

Paul has told us that Christian experience is dominated by life in the Spirit rather than by the desires of the flesh, or self-centeredness. Christians are still subject to suffering, but not to eternal condemnation. Not being condemned, we have hope. A reading from the Letter to the Romans, the 8th chapter:

So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13:24–30, 36–43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

"The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?'

" 'An enemy has done this,' he answered.

"The servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them?'

"But the landowner said, 'No, because if you gather the weeds, you'll pull up the wheat along with them. Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I'll say to the harvesters, "First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn." ' "

Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

Jesus replied, "The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Those who have ears should hear."

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: How to Deal with Enemies

Hymn of the Day “A Farmer In a Field”³ (tune #717)

1. **A farmer in a field sowed good and healthy seeds.
But in the cover of the night, somebody planted weeds.**
2. **The wheat grew tall and strong, but thistles flourished, too.
The workers saw the mix of them and wondered what to do.**
3. **The farmer wisely said, "They'll grow as one today,
But when we harvest all the wheat, we'll throw the weeds away."**
4. **O Lord, we want to know why evil prospers here —
Why, next to love and justice, grow such hatred, pride and fear.**
5. **God, may we humbly see the harvest still is yours;
And one day we'll be blessed to find that love is what endures.**

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

³ Text © 2014 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Prayers of Intercession⁴

This morning our *Prayers of Intercession* will be done differently than usual. You will be asked to think of certain people, as described in the petitions, and then to hold those people in the presence of God, that is, to silently offer your prayers for those people to God. We turn to God in prayer:

Think of someone, you don't know their name—
just another person whose home has been flooded.
Think of how you would feel, how you would respond
to see everything you cherished completely ruined.
Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of someone, you may not know their name—
someone who longed for the parenthood that never happened.
Think of what it would mean to you to see your dreams unfulfilled
and your deepest desire left as an ache within.
Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of someone, you may not know their name—
someone who spends their days locked in a prison cell.
Their prison bars may be made of their fears and anxieties
but their inner pain bars the way to a life of joy and freedom.
Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of someone you may know by name—
someone who can't remember who or what you are;
the dementia has not only impacted their whole life
but also everyone they knew and loved feels the pain.
Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of someone, you may not know their name—
the abuse they suffered robbed them of their innocence;
you cannot see them, but they still bear the scars within
and every relationship is touched by the shame they ought not to feel.
Hold them now in the presence of God.

⁴ *Prayers of Intercession* written by David Clowes, from **500 Prayers for the Christian Year** © 2020 David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO.

silence

Think of someone, you may not know their name—
 just someone living in the midst of war such as in Sudan, Gaza, or Ukraine.
 Their first thought of the day: Will there be anything to eat?
 They do not know how long their malnourished child will survive.
 Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of someone, you may not know their name—
 a local councillor or a member of parliament
 who felt called by God to serve him as a politician.
 The call is real and the challenge is still there
 as they seek to balance their principles with the party line.
 Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of someone, you may not know their name—
 just a child who would love to have their own parent.
 They see pictures of families enjoying being together
 and they long to have a mum and dad of their own.
 Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of someone you know by name—
 remember those who are troubled by the doctor's diagnosis.
 Think of those whose whole life is being changed by their illness
 and also those who know their days are shorter than they had hoped.
 Hold them now in the presence of God.

silence

Think of yourself and all you will be facing in the coming days—
 remember you are being held in the presence of God.

silence

We bring our prayers in the name of Christ,
 whose love is great enough to hold us all. 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.**

Offering ⁵

We return a portion of the blessings God has bestowed on us, so that the work of Christ may continue through us in this time and place.

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray:

Holy Harvester, you have been planting seeds of blessing and provision for thousands of years. In gratitude for all you have done, we give you thanks and praise. For the work you have called us to accomplish in this season, we give our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

For the harvest yet to come, we pray for your direction and protection, that all we contribute may bring forth your fruitful bounty in the field of your heavenly dream. Amen.

Sending Hymn “On What Has Now Been Sown” #550

1. **On what has now been sown your blessing, Lord, bestow;
 the pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow.
 O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
 and yours alone shall be the praise!**
2. **To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs;
 accept what is your own and pardon what is ours.
 Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
 and to your Word a blessing give.**
3. **Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here,
 may meet together thus when you and yours appear,
 and follow you to heav'n, our home.
 E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

⁵ *Offering Prayer* and *Blessing* written by Anna Crews Camphouse, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025
 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.

Blessing

Grow strong, taking in the living waters of love.
Grow deeply, being grounded and rooted in faith.
Grow to new heights of love and mercy,
moving always toward the mercy, justice, and truth
of God's dream.
Go from this place in a growth mindset,
lighting up the world with the illuminating grace
of God's presence. Amen.

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 – Joshua Hendricksen