

Sunday Worship Service – June 7, 2026

Worship words from various resources – printed and internet – as noted in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Reflection

Call to Worship ¹

Shout with joy,
for God has blessed us.
Sing with praise,
for God is here.
Worship and pray,
for God is listening.

Opening Prayer

Please join me in the Opening Prayer:

**Blessed God, thank you for blessing us in your myriad ways.
Thank you for trusting us to be your people,
to shine with your love, and to work for your justice.
In this time of worship, guide and strengthen us,
that we may go forth to bless your world fully and abundantly.
In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”* #617

- 1. We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul.
and pray that by your Spirit’s touch we may again be whole.**
- 2. As once you walked through ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still with power to heal again.**
- 3. You touch us through physicians’ skills, through nurses’ gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.**
- 4. When nights are long with wakefulness,
through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.**
- 5. We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.**

¹ *Call to Worship & Opening Prayer* written by Mary Scifres, from *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* © Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.

Confession and Absolution (words by Confirmation students)

We come before God to confess our sinfulness:

Loving, wondrous God,

We admit that we are bound by sin and cannot escape alone.

We all commit sin through mind, mouth, and action because of how we act and in what we haven't acted on. We have not given You our full attention. We have not followed the Ten Commandments. We have not cared for others or ourselves.

In the name of Christ, we ask Your forgiveness. Guide us in Your ways so we can feel closer to You and follow Your path for us. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God who is rich in love, who understands, who is merciful even when we are wrong, has brought us to new life and given us joy in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through God's love and grace we are spared and renewed. In the name of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

All powerful God strengthen us through the Holy Spirit that God may live in our souls and refresh us with God's grace. Amen.

Hymn "Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!" #875

Praise, praise, praise the Lord!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise, praise, praise the Lord!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! *(repeat song)*

Ritual of Inclusion

Let us pray:

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us.

Triune God, your divinity transcends distinctions of gender identity and sexual orientation, and through the generations you widen our awareness of human diversity. We gather here before you in our various expressions of identity and orientation, all of us one in Christ Jesus. Bring our society to peacefulness concerning a wider understanding of gender diversity and sexual orientation.

We ask that with your creative Spirit you cultivate new relationships, mend old wounds, and nurture communities of respect, for the sake of the one who embraces all persons in love, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

As we light the rainbow candles as a sign of our desire to include all people in our community of faith, we sing our song of inclusion "*Christ, Our Peace.*"

Song of Inclusion "*Christ, Our Peace*" #1037 (All Creation Sings)

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that divide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one body in you. (sing 3 times)

Let us pray: Loving God,

You created us in your image, in all of our differences and diversity. Inspire us to see Christ within each of your beloved children. Break down the walls that divide us – racism, transphobia, ableism, and other forms of discrimination--that we may live out your command to love you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Praise "*Come All You People, Come and Praise the Most High*" #819

led by the Sunday School children who will process in for this hymn

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.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1-9 read by Barrett Youck

The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you."

Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him. From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshipped in the LORD's name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Choir Anthem *"I Will Sing Your Glory and Praise"*

Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig.

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:13-25 read by Rowan Roberts

The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. The Law brings about wrath. But when

there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations*. So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence. When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: *That's how many descendants you will have*. Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb, which was dead. He didn't hesitate with a lack of faith in God's promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. He was fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised. Therefore, it was credited to him as righteousness.

But the scripture that says *it was credited to him* wasn't written only for Abraham's sake. It was written also for our sake, because it is going to be credited to us too. It will be credited to those of us who have faith in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was handed over because of our mistakes, and he was raised to meet the requirements of righteousness for us.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation "The Living Word" ²

**In the beginning was the Word,
the Living Word of God, the Light of Life Unending.**

**You shine in us on ancient starlight,
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.**

**Sing we halle, hallelu! You are the Word of Life Eternal.
Holy Wisdom, found within! You speak to us and we remember:**

**"I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.**

I am the Voice that never falters, I, the Echo of Beyond.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life." The Living Word.

² *Gospel Acclamation "The Living Word"* from "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved.
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Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, "Follow me," and he got up and followed him. As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table.

But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard it, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners."

While Jesus was speaking to them, a ruler came and knelt in front of him, saying, "My daughter has just died. But come and place your hand on her, and she'll live." So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. Then a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the hem of his clothes. She thought, If I only touch his robe I'll be healed.

When Jesus turned and saw her, he said, "Be encouraged, daughter. Your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that time on.

When Jesus went into the ruler's house, he saw the flute players and the distressed crowd. He said, "Go away, because the little girl isn't dead but is asleep"; but they laughed at him. After he had sent the crowd away, Jesus went in and touched her hand, and the little girl rose up. News about this spread throughout that whole region.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message – Beth Kelln

Children are invited to the front for this message.

Hymn "Jesus Loves Me!" #595 (verses 1,2)

- Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves, the Bible tells me so.**

2. **Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gate to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. (Refrain)**

Sermon: Eating and Healing Changes Everything

Hymn of the Day "When Jesus Called to Matthew"³ (sung to ELW #654)

1. **When Jesus called to Matthew and told him, "Follow me,"
That tax collector listened and followed willingly.
He left his work behind him and changed his life that day;
For nothing could be better than living Jesus' way.**
2. **Where Jesus offered mercy, the Pharisees saw sin;
They said, "He welcomes sinners and even eats with them."
Yet Jesus knew God's table should be a welcome place;
To Matthew and to others, he offered words of grace.**
3. **We wonder what he witnessed — what Matthew heard and saw.
Did Jesus' teaching leave him in wonder and in awe?
As Matthew heard Christ preaching, as Matthew went to serve,
Did he recall forgiveness that he did not deserve?**
4. **When Jesus called to Matthew and told him, "Follow me,"
The Lord was busy building a new community.
He built a church that centered on wonderful surprise:
God's reign is one of welcome! God's welcome changes lives!**

Apostles' Creed

We 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 © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. www.carolynshymns.com

Prayers of Intercession

Sunday School children lead prayers using a Prayer Tree

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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 and Offering Prayer ⁴

With gratitude for blessings received, we present our blessings in this time of offering. May God guide us to give generously of our time, talent, service, and treasure, that we may be blessings for the world.

Offering plate is place on the altar.

Let us pray:

God of abundance and love, bless these gifts, and bless our lives with your abundance and your love. In all that we have and in all that we are, may bless and honor you and bless and honor your beloved world. Amen.

Recognition & Blessing for Sunday School and Confirmands

Beth Kelln will lead this

Sending Song *"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"* #538

**The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a better place to live. (repeat).**

**The angels are not sent into our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.**

Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. (repeat)

⁴ *Offering Prayer* written by Mary Scifres, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.

Table Grace⁵

O God who gives all that is good,
 may your blessing be upon our food,
 your grace and laughter shine upon our fellowship,
 your kindness be upon our tongues,
 your peace reside with us,
 and your love reign in our hearts. 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.**

Blessing⁶

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
 † one God,
 bless, heal, and hold you
 today and always.
 Amen.

Commissioning

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

⁵ *Table Grace* written by Monica Furlong from **600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World** © 2001 Geoffrey Duncan, published by Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, CT.

⁶ *Blessing* from **Sundays and Seasons** (sundaysandseasons.com) © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN