# Sunday Worship Service – November 8, 2026

Worship words from sources as indicated in the footnotes.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**A Moment of Reflection**

**Call to Worship** [1]

Wait for the Lord.
**God is as near to us as our very breath.**
Prepare for the coming of Christ.
**Christ lives in our very lives.**
Wait, prepare, be ready to celebrate.
**God is here, Christ has come.**
**Love is present here and now.**

**Opening Prayer**

Christ, who is our Love and Life, wait with us now. Prepare us to receive your presence. Strengthen us to wait with perseverance and patience for the celebration of your place in our lives and your presence in our world. Amen.

**Gathering Song** ***"The Heavens Declare Your Glory"*** [2] (Tune ELW #820)

1. **The heavens declare your glory and all creation speaks**
   **of care in which you keep us through all our days and weeks.**
   **We offer our thanksgiving and pay our vows, Most High,**
   **for all on earth are yours, as the righteous testify.**
2. **We call in times of trouble for your deliverance**
   **and turn from empty ritual and meaningless pretense.**
   **Let justice roll like waters and righteousness descend,**
   **for you would save your people and hurting ones defend.**
3. **Restore in those who grieve now a hope that will not die,**
   **for Christ arose in vict'ry and so shall you and I.**
   **We comfort one another by God's redeeming grace.**
   **We watch and pray, preparing to meet Christ face to face.**

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[1] *Call to Worship* and *Opening Prayer* written by Mary J. Scifres, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014** © 2013 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

[2] Reprinted, with permission, from **Fresh Winds of the Spirit** by Lavon Bayler. Copyright © 1986 The Pilgrim Press, New York, NY

**Prayer of Confession** [3]

Please join me in a Prayer of Confession:

**Patient God, forgive our impatience.**
**Help us wait faithfully,**
**as we prepare to hear and receive,**
**not only your word,**
**but your very presence in our lives**
**and in our world.**
**Fill our lamps with your grace,**
**that we might be ready to receive your forgiveness,**
**and celebrate your unity with us.**
**In your holy name, we pray.**

**Words of Assurance**

Awake and alert, we are given new life in Christ,
strengthened by God's grace,
forgiven and reconciled by God's love,
to prepare anew for God's coming reign in our world.

**Hymn of Praise** ***"Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God"*** **#458**

1. **Praise and thanksgiving be to God our maker,**
   **source of all blessing, prodigal creator.**
   **Baptized and made your own, now we come before you,**
   **while we adore you.**

2. **Not our own holiness, nor that we have striven**
   **brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have given.**
   **Baptized and set apart, strengthen us, O Savior,**
   **with grace and favor.**

3. **Come, Holy Spirit, come in visitation;**
   **you are the truth, our hope, and our salvation.**
   **Baptize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove descending,**
   **life never ending.**

4. **Praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:**
   **one Lord, one faith, one source of ev'ry merit.**
   **Here now renew your church through this symbol given;**
   **grant peace from heaven.**

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[3] *Prayer of Confession* and *Words of Assurance* written by Mary J. Scifres, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014** © 2013 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Let us celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.
In baptism, God promises to love us, forgive us, and always be with us.
By water and the Spirit we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God;
and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

In the Gospel of Mark, we read Jesus' words;
*Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.* (Mark 10:14b-16)

*The child is presented for baptism by sponsors and parents:*

Who is it that you present for Baptism?

*R* *We present* Revie Rose Strongeagle *to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.*

*The minister addresses the Sponsors and Parents:*

You have brought your child to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
On the strength of God's gracious love for us,
and in communion with the Christian church,
will you, by your words and actions,
encourage and walk with her in the way of Jesus?
Do you promise to pray for her, and teach her to pray?
Do you promise to nurture her within the
community of the Christian Church?

*R* *We will, with God as our helper.*

*The minister addresses the congregation:*

People of God, do you promise to support Revie and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The minister addresses baptismal group:*

I ask you to reject sin, acknowledge your faith in Christ Jesus,
and profess the faith of the Christian Church.
Trusting in God's love and mercy, do you reject evil,
and all its many forms, and all its empty promises.?

*R* *I do.*

Trusting in Christ Jesus' grace and love, do you accept his
presence in your life as the one who draws you to God?

*R* *I do.*

With all God's people throughout time and space,
let us together profess our faith in the triune God.

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

*A prayer of Thanksgiving (while water is poured into the font).*

Gracious and Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life,
and within it, the gift of water.
Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.
To you be given praise and honour and worship
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The minister addresses the infant child.*

For you, little Revie, God made the world out of nothing.
For you, God called Israel out of Egypt and
brought Israel back from Exile.
For you, Revie, Christ came into the world to teach the children.
For you, Christ died on the cross and rose again.
For you, little child God sent the Holy Spirit
to give you strength to live as you ought.
For you, Christ will come again and take us to God.

Revie, you know nothing of this.
But we promise to tell you the story until you make it your own,

*The minister baptizes the child.*

Revie Rose Strongeagle, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Blessing*

May God - who has given you new life through water, word and Spirit - guide you, inspire you and work within you, all the days of your life. Amen.

*Marking with the Sign of the Cross*

Revie, child of God, this day you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the sign of the cross. Joined with Jesus, you are a child of God, now and forever.

*A lighted Candle is given to each of the Baptized.*

Let the light of Christ, which God has placed in your heart, shine through your words and actions from this day forward.

*A prayer for newly baptized and their families:*

Gracious God, forever faithful to your promise, we thank you for assuring us again that you will forgive us and receive us as children in Christ. Grant wisdom and love to Wacey and Cortnie and to us all as we carry out the vows we have just made.

We pray that you will guide Revie and all our little ones throughout their lives. Enable them to respond in faith to the gospel. Fill them with your Spirit and make their lives fruitful. Give them strength to endure trials. And when Christ returns, let them celebrate with all the people of God your greatness and goodness forever in the joy of your new creation. Amen.

*The congregation stands and welcomes the baptized:*

Brothers, sisters, siblings in Christ, we now receive Revie into Christ's church. I ask you to nurture and love her and to encourage her to be Christ's faithful disciple.

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into our family of faith. We promise to love, encourage, and support you and to help you know and follow Christ.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to share the peace with one another.*
*The baptismal families return to their seats.*

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

Let us pray:
**O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading: Amos 5:18-24** (read by Confirmation Student - Michelle Okeadu )

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community. Reading from the Book of Amos, the 5th chapter:*

Doom to those who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or sought refuge in a house, rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Isn't the day of the LORD darkness, not light; all dark with no brightness in it?

I hate, I reject your festivals; I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies. If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food— I won't be pleased; I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals. Take away the noise of your songs; I won't listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Here ends the reading.
**Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

**Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** (First Nations Version)

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ. Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians, the 4th chapter, using the First Nations Version:*

Now, my sacred family members, we want you to understand what will happen to those who have walked on so that you will not be filled with sorrow like the others who have no hope. We believe that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) died and rose again. We can be just as sure that the Great Spirit will,

along with him, bring back to life those who when they died were trusting in him.

What we are telling you comes from the words of our Honored Chief. We who remain alive until his coming will not come face to face with him ahead of the ones who have walked on. For our Honored Chief himself will come down from the spirit-world above with a war cry. The voice of the chief spirit-messenger will join with him, and the eagle bone whistle will sound. First, the ones who died trusting in the Chosen One will rise. Then, together with them, we who have remained alive will be taken up into the clouds to meet our Honored Chief in the air. Then we will always be with him. Use these words to lift up each other's hearts.

Here ends the reading.
**Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

**Gospel Acclamation *"The Living Word"*** [4]

**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.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were

[4] *Gospel Acclamation "The Living Word"* from "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

"When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.'

"Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.'

"But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

"Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.'

"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

"Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour.

The gospel of our Lord.
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: Does God Despise Worship?**

**Hymn of the Day *"Let Justice Flow like Streams"* #717**

1. **Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,**
   **enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.**
2. **Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,**
   **an everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.**
3. **So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,**
   **and justice, right and peace pervade**
   **this world our whole life through.**

**Prayers of Intercession** [5]

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Lord, we pray for those who are losing hope; for those who are awaiting their doctor's diagnosis and are concerned what it might mean for their future and for those who already know that they are facing a period of painful and unpleasant treatment. We pray for those in hospital or rehabilitation facilities (*names*). May they find hope in the presence of your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for those who have lost the hope they once had; for those who never seemed to have a care in the world but have lost their veneer of peace and tranquillity and for those who are now overwhelmed by anxiety as the darkness of depression colours their day. May they find hope in God's healing love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for those who have no hope left; for those whose every job application receives no reply and every attempt to find work is rejected and for those whose experience of unemployment means they are losing their sense of purpose and self-worth. May they find hope in the assurance of God's power. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for those whose hope is fading; for those whose children have now left home and are losing any real sense of meaning in their lives as they struggle to learn to be parents in a whole new way and for those, who with the passing years, find their failing eyesight and lack of mobility leave them feeling isolated and worthless. May the ever-present peace of God renew their hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for those whose hope is daily renewed; for those whose walk with God is the strength of their lives and an inspiration to others and for those whose words of hope bring courage and encouragement to everyone they meet. May the hope of God radiate through their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for those we know who are losing hope; for a friend, a neighbour, or a colleague at work whose life is in turmoil and they do not know which way to turn.

*silence*

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

And we pray for ourselves, that in the darkest times we may hold fast to Christ who has promised to hold fast to us—no matter what; that we may spend time in his company, that he may lead us into the light and to new hope. May the presence of Jesus be our hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally we pray for all who have laboured for liberty, freedom and justice; for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice; for those who in life and death have preserved our living. Grant that they may rest in your peace. We pray for those who lost their lives or were terribly injured in the fire at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright. Comfort those who mourn and grant peace and healing to those who face a long road to recovery. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers in the name of Christ, the light and the hope of the world. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering / Offering Prayer** [6]

Whether wise or foolish, people need oil for their lamps. People need food for their table and love for their lives. Here we share the oil of our lives, that all may have light for their way.

*(An Offering Plate is placed on the Altar)*

Please pray with me:

**Loving God, receive these gifts of love, as celebrations of your presence in our lives. Shine through our gifts and our ministry, that others may see light for their journey. Live through our gifts and our ministry, that all may experience and celebrate your loving presence. Amen.**

*(The Creedance Table is moved to center of the Chancel)*

**The Great Thanksgiving** [7]

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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[6] Invitation to the Offering and Offering Prayer written by Mary J. Scifres, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014** © 2013 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

[7] *Great Thanksgiving* from **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**, Option E: Form V © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

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.**

*Communion Instructions and Invitation*

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

*Those Communing online are invited to eat the bread and drink the wine/juice.*

*The congregation is ushered forward to receive the elements.*

**Hymn during Communion *"Now We Join in Celebration"* #462**

1. **Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation,**
   **dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder;**
   **for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence,**
   **stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us.**
2. **Lord, as round this feast we gather, fill our hearts with holy rapture!**
   **For this bread and cup of blessing are for us the sure possessing**
   **of your loving deed on Calv'ry, of your living self, our vict'ry,**
   **pledge of your unfailing presence, foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.**
3. **Lord, we share in this communion as one fam'ly of God's children,**
   **reconciled through you, our brother, one in you with God our Father.**
   **Give us grace to live for others, serving all, both friends and strangers,**
   **seeking justice, love, and mercy till you come in final glory.**

***Hymn during Communion "When Pain of the World Surrounds Us"* #704**

1. **When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,**
   **when searching just confounds us with false hopes ev'rywhere,**
   **when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,**
   **we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.**
2. **We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,**
   **confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.**
   **May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.**
   **We are called to follow Jesus and let God's justice flow through us.**
3. **The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill**
   **to nourish all the people, God's purpose to fulfill.**
   **May we with humble courage be open to God's will.**
   **We are called to follow Jesus and let God's Spirit flow through us.**
4. **We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,**
   **your saving word that guided a struggling human race.**
   **O God, with all creation, your future we embrace.**
   **We are called to follow Jesus and let God's changes flow through us.**

**Communion Blessing**

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

**Prayer after Communion** [8]

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

**Sending of Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**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!**

[8] *Prayer after Communion* and *Blessing* from **Sundays and Seasons** © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.