

Sunday Worship Service – October 11, 2026

Worship words from The New Handbook of the Christian Year¹ marked with *
Other material from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Reflection

Call to Worship²

You are a people of thanksgiving.

We rejoice in having this faith community.

You are a people of thanksgiving.

We rejoice in having God's Word in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

You are a people of thanksgiving.

We rejoice in the challenge to live the empathetic way of Jesus Christ.

You are a people of thanksgiving.

**We rejoice that we can respond to the needs of our church
and neighbourhood.**

Opening Prayer *

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season, and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, in the provision for our necessities, and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Gathering Song *"Come and See"* #976 (ACS) (Led by the Choir)

What are you looking for?

Come, see, come and see.

What are you looking for?

Come and see. (repeat)

Prayer of Confession *

Dear friends in Christ, aware of God's providence and grace,
let us bow in silence before God to confess our sins and receive forgiveness.

A brief silence.

¹ **The New Handbook of the Christian Year** by Hoyt L. Hickman, Don E. Saliers, Laurence Hull Stookey, James F. White © 1992 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

² *Call to Worship* by David Sparks from **Responsive Prayers for Every Week of the Church Year A** © 2019 David Sparks, published by Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We pray you: in your mercy forgive what we have been,
amend what we are, direct what we shall be;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
giving thanks in all circumstances through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Friends, hear the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Hymn of Praise “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #733

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain: **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.**

2. **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**
3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray:

**Almighty God our Father,
your generous goodness comes to us new every day.
By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness,
give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 126

When the LORD changed Zion's circumstances for the better,
 it was like we had been dreaming.
 Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter;
 our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.
 It was even said, at that time, among the nations,
 "The LORD has done great things for them!"
 Yes, the LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.
 LORD, change our circumstances for the better,
 like dry streams in the desert waste!
 Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.
 Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed,
 come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I ask that requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be made for all people. Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity. This is right and it pleases God our savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. There is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the human Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a payment to set all people free. This was a testimony that was given at the right time. I was appointed to be a preacher and apostle of this testimony – I'm telling the truth and I'm not lying! I'm a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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 6:25-33

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

“Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these. If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it’s alive today and tomorrow it’s thrown into the furnace, won’t God do much more for you, you people of weak faith?

Therefore, don’t worry and say, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going to wear?’ Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Thanksgiving is More than Words

Hymn of the Day “We Come to This Table” ³ (tune #870)

1. **We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.
We hear Jesus' welcome — inviting, forgiving;
We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.**
2. **We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we share here with others
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.**
3. **We grieve for your world here; we cry, “How much longer?”
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.**

³ Text © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. (www.carolynshymns.com)

4. **We rise from this table with new dedication
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.**

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.**

Litany of Thanksgiving *

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us:

A brief silence.

For the beauty and wonder of creation, in earth and sky and sea,
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous
who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, justice, and peace,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, let us give thanks for the great promises and mercies
given to us and to all the world in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
**To Christ be praise and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

The peace of God be with you all.
And also with you.

The Assembly greets one another with a word of peace.

Offering / Offering Prayer ⁴

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Please join me in the Offering Prayer:

Grant us, loving God, the gift of generosity as we serve Jesus Christ.

Enable us to praise generously and pray often.

Enable us to serve with others and be a friend to them.

Enable us to give our time selflessly.

Enable us to use our talents wisely and receive thanks joyfully and humbly.

Enable us to confront evil promptly and counter darkness with light.

Know that as you give generously, others will receive the love of Christ
gratefully, and God's blessing will be yours.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving *

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

⁴ *Offering Prayer* by David Sparks from **Responsive Prayers for Every Week of the Church Year A** © 2019 David Sparks, published by Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

By your appointment the seasons come and go.

You bring forth bread from the earth and create the fruit of the vine.

You have made us in your image and given us dominion over the world.

Earth has yielded its treasure,

and from your hand we have received blessing on blessing.

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus ⁵ (*sung*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. (*repeat*)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

DH Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor.

When hungry and tempted, he refused to make bread for himself
that he might be the bread of life for others.

When the multitudes were hungry, he fed them.

He broke bread with the outcast

but drove the greedy out of the Temple.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

⁵ Music by Jeff Johnson © 2019 Sola Scripture Songs

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Mystery of Faith ⁶ (sung)

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

DH 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.**

⁶ Music by Jeff Johnson © 2019 Sola Scripture Songs

Communion Invitation and Instructions

Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)

Hymn during Communion “Praise and Thanksgiving” #689

1. Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
3. Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom’s guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.
4. Then will your blessing reach ev’ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Hymn during Communion “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” #547

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ’s teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God everliving,
the tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face –
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

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 *

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending of Communion Prayer

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their homes. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Commission ⁷

There is love in our hearts as we leave this service.

There is thanksgiving for all we have received.

There is determination to do what God calls us to do.

There is thanksgiving for the strength to persist.

There is regret for actions that have hurt others.

There is thanksgiving for forgiveness received.

There is anger for defenseless people who have been abused.

There is resolve to find a voice that will be heard.

There is a challenge to stand with the poor and powerless.

There is reassurance for them to know they are not alone.

It is hard to have nothing in a world where so many have so much.

We will do what we are able to with God's gifts to us.

The love of Jesus Christ goes with us as we leave this service.

That love will lead us to peace in the coming week.

⁷ *Commission* written by Mary Scifres, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

Sending Song “We Will Go with God” #990 (ACS) (Led by the Choir)

We will go with God!

Ho, ho, ho! We will go with God!

We will go with God!

Ho, ho, ho! We will go with God! (This day, oh!)

On this day of great joy

we will go with God. (This day, oh!)

On this day of great joy

we will go with God!

Blessing *

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all, now and for ever. 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.**

Sending

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