

Sunday Worship Service – September 27, 2026

Worship words from *Sundays and Seasons* marked with *

Other material from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory ¹

In recognition of the *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* which will take place on this coming Wednesday, we begin this morning by acknowledging the traditional territory upon which we gather. For many thousands of years, the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota peoples have sought to walk gently on this land. They offered assistance to the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

As we light the Christ candle we are reminded that Christ came into the world to be a light and inspiration to all peoples and not just to a select few. We are called to follow that light by living with respect for all of creation.

Call to Worship

Let us give thanks to our Creator, for the Creator is always with us.

Creator and creating God, you have given life to all around us.

You call us to be with you whether we are inside in the shelter of these walls or outside in the shelter of your trees.

God is with us when we gather together and when we are alone.

We are here to answer that call.

We will sing joyfully and we will listen attentively for your whispering voice.

Return & Renewal (Confession & Forgiveness)

Return to the Lord your God who is gracious,
and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**God of all mercy and consolation,
your love is steadfast. Your love is patient.**

**God of our near and far, you meet us where we are –
each peak and valley of our lives.**

¹ The beginning of this service from *On the Path to Reconciliation: KAIROS Worship Resources*.

Restore us by your Spirit's power.
 Open our eyes to you, our source of life.
 Come sanctify our hearts and minds.
 May we walk your pathways to the glory of your name!

As in the Garden of our Unknowing,
 We found division in worldly wisdom.
 Long have we wandered from the wisdom of your love-
 Help us to find our way back home.

Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive,
 heeding the call to love as you have loved.
 Let Mercy reign in ev'ry heart.
 May the Way of Christ be the pattern of our lives.

Down through the ages, your love is changeless-
 across the nations, each generation.
 You are the cleansing rain. You wash away our pain,
 and by your grace we have been saved.

Words of Assurance

God of our Unending, your love is as boundless as the heavens.
 Your grace is a river that flows without ceasing.
 In Jesus, you weave yourself into the fabric of our humanity-
Divine Mercy made manifest in our own time.

Therefore, Beloved, hear the good news:
 In love you were made, and to love you shall return.
 In the name of ✠Jesus Christ every distance is bridged,
 Every division is healed, and every heart is made whole.
 May Christ be your heart's everlasting desire.
 May the Words of Life be ever upon your lips!
Amen.

Hymn of Praise *"When Morning Gilds the Skies"* #853

1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!
 When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!

2. **When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"**
3. **No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word the eternal psalm is heard:
oh, Jesus Christ be praised!**
4. **Let all of humankind in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**
5. **Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er, today and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-13 ²

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian harmony. Reading from the Letter to the Philippians, the 2nd chapter, using the First Nations Version:

As you walk the road with the Chosen One, have you gained from him courage for the journey? Have you found comfort in his love? Do you share together in his Spirit? Has his tenderness and mercy captured your heart? If so, then

² *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2021).

have the same kind of thoughts. Love with one heart. Join together in one Spirit. And walk side by side on one path. This will make my heart leap for joy.

But when you do these things, make sure you do them for the right reasons. Do not let selfish ways take you down a path of bragging or trying to look better than others. Instead, let humility be your guide as you honor others above yourself. Each of you should look to the needs of others, not just to your own.

Think about yourselves in the same way Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One thought about himself.

Even though Creator Sets Free (Jesus) has always been the same as the Great Spirit and shared everything equally with him, he did not even think of holding on to this in a selfish way.

Instead, he emptied himself, became nothing, and gave up all he had. Then, having been born as a human being, he took on himself the lowly form of a servant.

As a True Human Being, he lowered himself even more by following the guidance *of the Great Spirit*, even when death was waiting for him *at the end of the trail*, death on a tree-pole—the cross!

Because Creator Sets Free (Jesus) did this, the Great Spirit gave him an honored place above all others and bestowed on him a name greater than all other names, so that all who live in the spirit-world above, on the earth below, and underneath the earth will bow their knee to Creator Sets Free (Jesus) in honor of his name. Then everyone, in their native language, will shout out loud that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One is Grand Chief *over all the earth*. This will bring honor and praise to our Father the Great Spirit.

My much-loved family, you have always followed my guidance, not only when I was with you but much more now that I am away. So then, with great respect, you must walk the path Creator has given you for being set free and made whole. For the Great Spirit is creating in you the desire and strength to do what pleases him.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

The Living Word (Gospel Acclamation)³

**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 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, "What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?"

Jesus replied, "I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I'll tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things. Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?"

They argued among themselves, "If we say 'from heaven,' he'll say to us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But we can't say 'from humans' because we're afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet." Then they replied, "We don't know."

Jesus also said to them, "Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

" 'No, I don't want to,' he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.

"The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, 'Yes, sir.' But he didn't go.

³ *Gospel Acclamation "The Living Word"* from "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved.
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“Which one of these two did his father’s will?”

They said, “The first one.”

Jesus said to them, “I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God’s kingdom ahead of you. For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn’t believe him. But tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn’t change your hearts and lives and you didn’t believe him.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Who Will Do the Father’s Will?

Hymn of the Day “*Lord of Light*” #688

1. **Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.**
2. **By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,
by the courage where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,
by the victories of meekness, through reproach and suff’ring won:
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.**
3. **Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel;
with your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal;
lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun:
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.**
4. **By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night;
by the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all and healing light;
by the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one:
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.**

Hispanic Creed – written by Justo González

We confess our faith together using the Hispanic Creed:

**We believe in God the Father Almighty
Creator of the heavens and the earth;
Creator of the all peoples and all cultures;
Creator of all tongues and races.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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.**

**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.**

Intercessory Prayer ⁴

Creator and Redeemer, as we pray for your community, the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the world and people you have fashioned.

A moment of silence

Creator, we give thanks that you speak to us in our own ways, in our own traditions. Thank you that you also speak through the traditions of others. Help us to see your love in all things and to be guided with loving hearts to do that which is best in our homes and in our communities. Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

⁴ *Intercessory Prayer* © The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (*For the Healing of the Land*)

Creator, your love is something we must have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it. We must have it because without it we become weak and faint. Without love we weaken and our courage fails. Creator, you declared that love in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help your Church to declare that love in your world. through greater stewardship and respect Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Creator, inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who suffer, those in special need: (*names*). Creator, after the winter and cold and icy winds life again glows from the bosom of Mother Earth. Mother Earth throws off dead stalks and withered limbs and new strong saplings arise. We ask such new life for those who suffer, and that they be sustained by Your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Creator, the faces of the past are like leaves that settle to the ground. They make the earth rich and thick, so that new fruit will come forth every summer. We give thanks for the wisdom the elders have brought down to us, especially for their teachings about respect for others and care for Mother Earth. We ask that their wisdom may bear fruit in us and the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Finally, let us give thanks: Creator, you saw the world and declared it good. The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass speaks to us. The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the sea speaks to us. The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, the dewdrops on the flower speaks to us. But above all our heart soars for you to speak to us in your Son, our Brother, Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers. **Amen.**

Offering / Offering Prayer⁵

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Let us pray:

God of Rest and Renewal, May the offering of our lives reflect your timeless rhythm of doing and being, action and rest. Help us to freely give what you have given, the fruits of your Spirit grown in the fertile soil of faith. As we lift up our hearts and thoughts in radiant alignment with you, O God, we rest in the fullness of peace:

⁵ From "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

In love we were made, in love we live, and to love we shall return. In you, Lord, we are kept. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁶

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks and praise to our Lord God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Preface ⁷

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for you are at work among us,
conforming our will and our work to your sacred purposes.

In the first of your mighty wonders, you divided the waters
and brought forth a newborn earth.

You rescued your people from slavery,
and though their faith dried up in the desert,
you split the rocks and quenched their thirst
with waters welling up from ancient depths.

Your child Jesus, though one with you,
was born as one of us and humbled himself,
passing through the ancient waters of baptism
and following the ways of righteousness
even to the point of death on a cross.

Therefore you raised him to life
and exalted him above every other power.

Now you embrace all who in action confess him as Lord,
baptising them in his name into the life of your Kingdom.

With all the saints and angel choirs and all the heavenly host,
We praise your name, O Christ, and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

⁶ From "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

⁷ Preface from **Laughingbird: Liturgical Resources with an Australian Voice** (<https://laughingbird.net>)

**Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

In Remembrance of Me (Sung Words of Institution)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed,
took the bread and blessed it, and broke it for his friends.
“This is my body given for you,” he said to them that night.
“Take and eat it, all of you in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he lifted up the cup.
He offered praise and blessings, and to his friends he said,
“This is my blood shed for all, the Covenant made new.
Drink of it, all of you, in remembrance of me.

Amen, this is goodbye for now, for I’ll not drink again,
Until I drink this cup anew in Heaven with you.”
Together, with all the faithful across every time and place,
we pray as our Lord taught us, using the words knit upon our hearts...

The Lord’s Prayer

**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 Invitation

These are the gifts of God, given for all. Come, be refreshed.

Communion Instructions

Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)

Hymn during Communion “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” #772

1. **Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!**
2. **Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.**
3. **Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e’er forget your way, restore your wand’ring sheep.**

4. **Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.**

Hymn during Communion "Strengthen for Service, Lord" #497

1. **Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that holy things have taken;
and let the ears that heard your word to falsehood never waken.**
2. **The tongues that sang your holy name now purge of all deception;
keep bright the eyes that saw your love and sharpen their perception.**
3. **And may the feet that walked your courts be never lured to wander;
but lead the faithful nourished here to journey on in splendor.**

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 Communion⁸

Holy One, you feed us with bread from heaven and the gifts of mother earth.
In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace and you call us to
friendship with one another. You have given us the gift of reconciliation. May
we who have tasted that gift from you, offer ourselves in peace and humility
to one another. And may you always walk among us as friend. We pray this in
your name. Amen.

Hope Everlasting (Benediction)

Oh, where do we go from here?

Whom do we follow, which path do we take?

**We'll follow wherever You lead. We'll follow Your heart's desire,
And seek to be Your peace for a world in need.**

**Now, may the God of all hope fill you with joy and peace, by faith,
And may your hope everlasting, by the power of the Spirit, abound!**

(repeat song)

Commission

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

⁸ *Prayer after Communion* © The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (*Mohawk-Ojibwe-Lenni-Lenape
Eucharist for National Aboriginal Day of Prayer*)