



## *Order of Worship*

July 18, 2021

### **8th Sunday after Pentecost**

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#### **Call to worship**

Come,  
**you who are weary.**  
Come,  
**you who are anxious.**  
Come,  
**you who are uncertain.**  
Come,  
**you who are burdened.**  
Come away  
**to a deserted place,**  
to a restful place,  
**to a renewal place,**  
to a grace-full place,  
**with Jesus.**

#### **Call to confession**

Jesus invites us to be honest with ourselves and with each other. Let us pause now to examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.



### **Prayer of confession**

God of mercy, our need is great. The pandemic has left us tired, anxious and uncertain. We have stretched beyond our limits and numbed ourselves to our pain. We have accepted getting by as good enough. We have rejected your offers of spiritual food as unrealistic and impractical. Help us, Holy God, to acknowledge and confess our need. Help us embrace your command for Sabbath rest. Help us care for ourselves so we can continue to care for others. Amen.

### **Assurance of pardon**

Jesus invites the thirsty to drink from his well. Jesus invites the hungry to dine at his table. In Christ, we are forgiven, we are filled, we are made whole. Let us hear, accept and embody this Good News.

### **Prayer for illumination**

Illuminating God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Highlight the message you intend for us today through your Word read and proclaimed and set us on your path of righteousness. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**



### **Affirmation of faith** *(The Nicene Creed)*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Call for the offering**

We are blessed. Now let us be a blessing to others through the presentation of our tithes and offerings.



### **Prayer of dedication**

Holy God, you call us to live generous lives. You give to us abundantly so we may give to others. May your care for us be reflected in our offerings today, that these gifts might spread your love and your hope to a needy world. Amen.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

God of grace,

You alone know our needs, the concerns that weigh heavy on our shoulders, responsibilities that are unrelenting, duties that are exhausting. There are days when the burdens we carry overwhelm us, days when we cannot see ourselves free.

And yet, the sky is full of your promise —  
the rainbow appears at the end of the storm,  
the fireflies dance when the sun goes down,  
the green leaves unfurl and reach for rain.

Turn our eyes, Holy God, to these signs of life and hope. Open us to the natural treasures of your uncompromising presence. Enlighten us to your glory as we pause to appreciate the summer days. Like a breeze cooling us in the hot humid air, your love embraces and satisfies the loneliest, most exhausted of souls. May our spirits know this summer Sabbath, so we can know your peace.

Compassionate God, we know you are close to all in need, and by our prayers for others we come closer to you. Hear our prayers of intercession for the people in our families, our community, our nation and our world.

We pray for the healing of those who are sick ...

We pray for the poor and impoverished,  
the oppressed and the marginalized ...

We pray for victims of violence,  
systemic and domestic abuse ...

We pray for those whose lives have been  
shattered by tragedy or disaster ...

We pray for those who grieve ...

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ, we lift these prayers up to you, God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, *Our Father* ...



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### **Charge and benediction**

Inspired by God's Word,  
renewed by worship,  
encouraged by the Spirit's constant presence,  
may we go in grace, go in peace, go and grow in God's love.  
Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott  
and provided for free distribution.

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