



*Order of worship*

July 25, 2021

## **9th Sunday after Pentecost**

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### **Call to worship**

We gather in the presence of Christ.

**We gather, hungry and needy.**

In this holy place, nothing and no one will be left behind.

**The bread will be shared. The food multiplied.**

All will be filled. All will be satisfied.

**Miracles abound. Thanks be to God.**

### **Call to confession** (*Mark 9:24*)

I believe; help my unbelief!

Let us pause now to examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

### **Prayer of confession**

God of grace, the world's problems test our faith. We don't believe all the hungry people can be fed. We don't trust your promise to provide. We don't jump to help when you seek to perform miracles. We make excuses for our sins and deny our complicity. Forgive us, Holy God, and free us to serve and not impede our liberating work. Amen.

### **Assurance of pardon** (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed. Amen.



**Prayer for illumination**

God, you are faithful, guiding us through your Word. Open us to your Spirit's presence, humble us in our listening, soften our certainty and stubborn wills, so that we might hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

**Scripture readings**

**Sermon**

**Affirmation of faith** (*Colossians 1:15-20*)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation;  
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,  
things visible and invisible.  
All things have been created through him and for him.  
He himself is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
He is head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning,  
the firstborn of the dead,  
so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

**Call for the offering** (*Psalms 145:16*)

"You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing."  
God, open our hands and our hearts as we return our tithes and offerings to you.

**Prayer of dedication**

God of Provision, gather these offerings and bless them, so that all may be satisfied, all the hungry may be fed, nothing is lost and no one left behind. Amen.



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

Holy God, how can suffering come to an end? How can pain ease? Grief ebb? Hunger be satiated? Weapons laid down? Anxiety calmed? Corruption fought? Division overcome? Your promises to provide and the path of hope you lay out, Holy God, seem impossible under the weight of our woes.

Yet still we pause to pray. We turn to you, speak to you, shorten the distance between us and you, in the hope and the faith that you listen when your people pray. You love. You weep. You act. Grateful for your ear, Holy God, we lift our prayers to you.

May those in need of healing experience the balm of your nurturing care ...

May those in need of courage find inspiration in the heroes and heroines of your written Word ...

May those in need of reconciliation find empowerment in your path of peace ...

May those in need of guidance be blessed with your insight and wisdom ...

Eternal One, who blesses all of life, bless and renew us all. Time moves so fast, life always ahead of us, urging us faster and faster. May this moment of prayer and pause help us hear the wind paging through the trees, feel the warm hug of the sun, see the stars flaring, smell the lilacs across the street. May this moment of communion help us remember the support and sustenance we have here with each other and with you.

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* ...



**Charge and benediction** (*Psalm 51:1,11*)

May the steadfast love of God, the abundant grace of Jesus Christ and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott  
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