



Order of worship

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

Call to worship (*Psalm 19:1*)

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
We turn to our Creator in praise and thanksgiving.
We gather for Word and worship.

Call to confession (*Nehemiah 9:17*)

God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, you call us to service and work that cannot be
done alone. Yet we overburden ourselves, and our egos keep
us from asking for help. Forgive our false show of strength.
Humble us in leadership. Help us to acknowledge that the gifts
we have been given in the Body of Christ include hands of help
and support. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

God lifts the weary, lightens the load of those overly burdened,
supports and strengthens those who have been knocked down.
Claim the forgiveness God so graciously offers. Know the new
life Christ has given us. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

May the meditations of our minds and hearts be acceptable to
you, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer, as we approach your
Word today. Amen.



Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (*from "A Brief Statement of Faith"*)

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.

We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Call for the offering (*Acts 20:35*)

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said,
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Prayer of dedication

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have
given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your
work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel
to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with
the heaviest of loads. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal God, we rejoice today in the gift of life, which we have
received by your grace, and the new life you give in Jesus Christ.
In this moment of prayer, we pause to give thanks for:

The love of our families ...


The support of our friends ...

Strength and abilities to serve your purpose ...

This community in which we live ...

Opportunities to give as we have received ...

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God of grace, we offer our prayers for the needs of others and commit ourselves to serve them even as we have been served in Jesus Christ. In this moment of prayer, we pause to remember:

Those who are overwhelmed by the burden of leadership ...

Those who are exhausted from navigating uncertainty
and change ...

Those who are ill and their caregivers ...

Those who are in need of courage to move forward ...

Merciful God, you call us to journeys where we cannot see the destination, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us.

Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us to pray by saying together, *Our Father* ...

Charge and benediction

May we leave this house of worship strengthened by the Spirit, renewed by God's grace and reminded that the Body of Christ surrounds us to help and support those overly burdened.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of the God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us now and always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott,
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