



Order of Worship

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024

Call to worship

God calls
God gathers
God challenges
God moves
God liberates
God saves

Guide us and our lives, O Holy One, so all creation might flourish.

Call to confession

The truth is liberating. Let us honestly examine our hearts and confess our sins before God.

Prayer of confession

Holy God, we belittle ourselves in the face of overwhelming problems. We tell ourselves we are powerless to create positive change. We tell ourselves peace is impossible as we invest billions in weapons of war. We refuse new ideas, new solutions, new voices. We are stuck – trapped! – in our comfortable ways. Forgive our reluctance, God. Forgive our ignorance. Forgive our excuse-making. Turn us to all that is possible through you. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Christ has set us free. Claim your forgiveness. Rejoice in God's grace. Respond with bold, courageous love. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Prepare our hearts and minds for the hearing of your Word, Holy God. Open us to your truth. Humble us to your way. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon



Affirmation of faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Call for the offering

In gratitude to God for all our blessings, let us bless others with a portion of all we have been given. Let us present our offerings to God.

Prayer of dedication

Most generous God, you have blessed us with gifts to serve and share. May the offerings we present today be used to promote the peace, justice and healing you desire for us and your world. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of heaven and earth, in these days of scorching summer sun and cool evening breeze; of terrorizing wars and vacations at the beach; of discouraging national news and nourishing church potlucks; we live lives of contradictions. We notice the disparities. We feel you tugging at our hearts to heed Christ's call of discipleship, of care, of service, and of delighting in blessings bestowed.

On this Sabbath day, we pause to pray for those who are suffering, those who are close and known to us as well as those who live in far-away foreign lands. In your mercy, God, hear our prayers for:

- People seeking to survive enduring violence in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan
- People seeking a home to call their own, a place of safety and refuge
- People seeking escape from record heat waves, tropical storms and natural disasters





- People seeking a cure for disease or the easing of physical pain
- People seeking relief from endless waves of grief
- People seeking spiritual peace to cool the anger burning within them
- People seeking healing from mental or physical illness

God, we know we are not powerless. We recognize the power we hold to make this world more just, more equitable, more right. Equip us, teacher, with the wisdom to know what is best, and the courage to do what is right.

Now, as the Body of Christ, hear us as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us, **“Our Father ...”**.

Charge and benediction

God calls
Christ loves
Spirit guides

Just as God gathered us for worship, God sends us out — redeemed, renewed, ready to live and love faithfully.

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

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

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