

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

**Please stand if you are able GtG = Glory to God hymnal*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to God and tell of God's gifts.

All: We will sing praises for all that God has done.

One: Let your hearts be joyful!

All: We will seek God's presence continually.

One: Call to mind God's wonderful works.

All: We will always remember the blessings of God and glorify God forever!

***OPENING HYMN "O God, Who Gives Us Life" GtG #53**

**1. O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.**

**2. O God, who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.** *(continued...)*

**3. O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.**

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PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

*One: Holy, Mystrious, Eternal and Ever-loving God,
God of our past, present and future,
in you we live and move and have our being.
You are the beginning and end of all things.
In your depth, we find mystery.
In your breadth, we know your tender embrace.
We can only wonder at your love for us,
Each of us so small, yet part of your whole creation.
Yet in Jesus Christ we meet your generous grace.
In the Holy Spirit, you move with us to inspire our action
and fill us with hope.
Our thoughts cannot exhaust your wisdom,
nor can our hearts fathom your mercy.
And so, we worship you in humble praise,
Holy God, the Three-in-One and One-in-Three, now and always.*

*Out of a desire to begin again with you and each other,
we confess to you our sins:*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful and forgiving God, we confess we do not live out your love and mercy.

We cling to old hurts and familiar habits.

We nurse anger and envy.

We are often so self-absorbed that we turn our backs on those in need.

Forgive what we have been, amend who we are, and guide us toward who we may become according to your generous grace.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's embracing grace.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Faithful God, you are the hope of all the oppressed, and the source of freedom for those held captive. Make us strong to witness to your liberating power, in generosity of life and in humility of spirit, that all the world may delight in your goodness.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:	Old Testament	Exodus 3:1-15	<i>NRSV</i>
	Epistle	Romans 12:9-21	<i>NRSV</i>
	GOSPEL	Matthew 16:21-28	<i>NRSV</i>

PRAYER

One: May this reading of the Word of the Lord remind us that, whether we're Peter of last week—naming exactly who Jesus is—or whether we're Peter of this week—getting rebuked for our ignorance—we can live together as Paul reminds us, overcoming evil with good.

All: As Jesus loves us, may we love others with words and deeds!

SERMON “Overcome Evil with Good” *by Reverend Jen Warren-Hauser*

***RESPONSE HYMN:** “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” *GtG #727 vv. 1-3*

**1. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**2. We are pilgrims on a journey;
we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of you fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** “The Apostles’ Creed” *(Traditional)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

(continued...)

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*One: God of our past, our present, and our future:
O God in whom we live and move and have our being,
we come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close.*

*We give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed this summer.
savoring the beauty of your creation right outside our doors,
catching up with family and friends,
and enjoying times for recreation & restoration.*

*We recognize how blessed we are
with many opportunities to find rest and relaxation in the summer.*

Thank you for every good thing that has refreshed us.

*Yet we remember those for whom this summer has been difficult:
those whose homes and communities have been ravaged by fire, storm or
flood;*

(continued...)

those who go hungry or face violence in forgotten corners of our own community and around the world;

Those who face economic struggles at home or at work;

those whose crops have withered in heat or drought....

May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company.

O God, Jesus walked with so many people in their pain and grief.

We remember those who have faced crises this summer -

through tragic death or unexpected loss,

through critical illness or injury,

through pain or problems that seem to have no end....

Surround them with your comfort and compassion.

O God, Jesus often faced many demands and pressure from his critics.

We pray for all those who have not found rest this summer:

for leaders trying to figure out ways forward for their communities when resources are tight;

for those whose jobs and responsibilities present new challenges;

and for all who seek secure and affordable housing when supply is low....

May they know your strength and assurance day by day.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.

Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world you love.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may offer healing and peace to those we encounter,

in the name of Christ Jesus who taught us to pray together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

Our Father,

who art in Heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory
forever.**

Amen

OFFERING

Invitation

One: The Apostle Paul encourages us to let our love be genuine as we contribute to those in need in the world around us. Know that God will use our gifts for good things, both those we undertake in Jesus' name and in ways we cannot yet imagine.

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

All: O God, we offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving. Use them to transform the world you love with the mercy and compassion we celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” GtG #727 vv. 4-6**

**4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**6. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

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***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*One: Moses met God unexpectedly, as a bush burst into flame.
Consider that you may meet God in unexpected places,
God can make any place holy ground.
So may the God of mystery embrace you;
the Christ of mercy renew you;
and the Spirit of life move with you through each new day.*

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**