

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord!

All: We will tell the world what God has done.

One: Let us bring praise to the name of our Maker.

All: We will honor God's name with shouts of joy!

One: Be mindful of all that God provides for us.

All: Let us give thanks for all the wonders God has made!

***OPENING HYMN "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" GtG 159**

1. **O sing a song of Bethlehem,
of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them
from angels in the air.**

**The light that shone on Bethlehem
fills all the world today.**

**Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
the angels sing always.**

2. **O sing a song of Nazareth,
of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
and of the sinless boy.**

**For now the flowers of Nazareth
in every heart may grow.**

**Now spreads the fame of his dear name
on all the winds that blow.**

(continued...)

3. **O sing a song of Galilee,
of lake and woods and hill,
of him who walked upon the sea
and bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee,
dark seas of trouble roll,
when faith has heard the Master's word,
falls peace upon the soul.**

4. **O sing a song of Calvary,
its glory and dismay,
of him who hung upon the tree,
and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary
is risen from the grave,
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
is mighty now to save.**

Words: Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1899

Music: KINGSFOLD, *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams,
1906; *Public Domain*

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

One: Creator God, in you we live and move and have our being:
You have been with us through good times and difficult ones.
You give us strength to face the challenges around us.
You offer us rest for our bodies and souls when life seems too demanding.

We turn to you for wisdom this day, trusting we will find the peace and
comfort we long for in your presence.

We praise you for all you offer us in your great faithfulness.

Fill us with your Spirit in this time of worship.

Open our minds and hearts, so that we may see as you see, love as you love,
and follow your ways for the sake of Christ our Lord.

In recalling all that you are and all that you have done, we remember who
we are and what we have done and we confess to you our sins:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and patient God, we confess that we still experience fear and doubt, even though you reach out to us with saving grace.

You call us to live with courage and perseverance, yet we give up too easily and opt for safer waters.

You encourage us to be bold in our struggles for justice, yet we remain silent in the face of unfairness.

Forgive us all the times we let you down.

Renew our lives through your mercy and grace.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: While pouring water into the Baptismal font:

Rest assured, God offers forgiveness and saving grace to everyone.
Accept these gifts for yourselves, and offer forgiveness to others in
the name of Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***ASSURANCE HYMN: "Calm to the Waves" GtG #184**

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind.

Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."

Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end.

In stillness, hear his voice.

Words: Mary Louise Bringle, 2002; © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.
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THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Through the storms of life, O God, you are with your people in the person of Jesus your Son. Calm our fears and strengthen our faith, that we may never doubt his presence among us but proclaim that he is your Son, risen from the dead, living for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:	Old Testament	Psalm 85:8-13	<i>NRSV</i>
	Epistle	Romans 10:5-15	<i>NRSV</i>
	GOSPEL	Matthew 14:22-33	<i>NRSV</i>

PRAYER

One: May this reading of the Word of the Lord remind us that, whether we stay in the boat, or walk out on the water, Jesus answers our cries and holds out his hand to us.

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

SERMON “Calm in the Waves” *by Reverend Jen Warren-Hauser*

***RESPONSE HYMN:** “How Firm a Foundation” GtG # 463 vv. 1-3

- 1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
- 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

(continued...)

3. **"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

Words: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

Music(FOUNDATION): American folk melody; Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832,
alt. Public Domain

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles Creed" (Traditional)**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and Earth.**

**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:Steadying God,

All: Reach out to us in the storms of life.

One: God of our past, our present, and our future:
Astonishing God, you can always surprise us.
You come to us in unforeseen circumstances and in unexpected people.
We give you thanks for help offered by a stranger, kindness in an anxious moment, good news that changed expected outcomes, relief in the midst of ongoing crises and signs of hope when things seemed bleak.

We pray for all who face upheaval and uncertainty, whatever the cause. Fill our hearts with compassion and understanding for the fearful.

One:Steadying God,
All: Reach out to us in the storms of life.

One: God of peace, you reassure us.
You remind us not to be afraid when troubles arise.
We pray for those who struggle with illness or grief, anxiety or depression.
We remember those who feel worthless or ashamed, whatever the reason.
May they know your peace and strength.
Equip us to reach out in every way we can to embody your love in our words and actions.

One:Steadying God,
All: Reach out to us in the storms of life.

One: God of hope, you challenge us.
You come to us in the midst of the world's troubles and invite us to stand for truth and work for justice.
We pray for all people crying out for fair treatment, working against racism and discrimination, telling painful stories.
Open our hearts with understanding and motivate us to act for change.
We pray for all people who resist the stories of injustice and defend inequality.

(continued...)

Open all our minds to the truths we deny, and show us new possibilities for relationships that bridge divides.
Send your Spirit to work in our communities to create mutual respect and new ways to live as neighbors.

One:Steadying God,

All: Reach out to us in the storms of life.

One: Faithful God, we place our trust in you and your purposes.
Answer our prayers according to your wisdom and will, for we offer them humbly in the name of 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: Thankful for the good gifts God gives us in Christ and in creation, let us present the fruit of our living for the work of God in the church and the world.

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

**All: Faithful God, bless the gifts we bring to you today.
Use them and us to still the storms in others' lives
And in the world so that your goodness will flourish
and your name be honored for Christ's sake.
Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation" GtG # 463 vv. 4-5**

- 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**
- 5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

Words: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

Music(FOUNDATION): American folk melody; Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832,
alt. Public Domain

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Whether the week ahead brings storms or calm for you, take heart:
God is with us. Do not be afraid. And may the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,
now and always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**