

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

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

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the God of life.

All: Let us praise God together.

*One: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's
steadfast love;*

All: as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.

One: So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

All: Let us praise the God of mercy together.

***OPENING HYMN** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" GtG 435

1. **There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

2. **For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.**

(credits next page)

Words: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
Music: IN BABILONE, Dutch melody; arr. Julius Rontgen, ca. 1906
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PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

*God of our past, present and future,
God of might and mercy,
the heavens and the earth are full of your glory.
Your love transforms our lives.
You enter our confusion and give insight.
You bear our grief and bring healing.
You see our fatigue and renew strength.
You sense our fear and spark courage.
You know death and raise up new life.
So, we come before you in worship,
handing over to you all that weighs us down.
Renew us in this time of worship, we pray,
so that we may serve you with joy in Jesus ' name. Amen.*

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

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
our lives do not always reflect your transforming power.
You are gracious, but we cling to judgment.
You are kind, but we can be cruel.
You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds.
Forgive us, O God.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Savior.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: While pouring water into the Baptismal font:

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Know that you are forgiven by his grace and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with each other. Amen.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: God of wisdom, prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word. Where it challenges us, lead us by your Spirit to respond in faithfulness for the sake of Christ, who gives us both courage and compassion.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:	Old Testament	Psalm 103:1-13	<i>NRSV</i>
	Epistle	Romans 14:1-12	<i>NRSV</i>
	GOSPEL	Matthew 18:21-35	<i>NRSV</i>

PRAYER

One: May this reading of the Word of the Lord remind us that whether we live or we die, whether we are old or are young, whether we live in Union or Pacific, we are the Lord's.

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

SERMON “We Are the Lord’s” *by Reverend Jen Warren-Hauser*

***RESPONSE HYMN “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” GtG 444**

- 1. “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.**
- 2. How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?**
- 3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!**
- 4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.**

TEXT: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.; © 1969, 1983 Rosamond E. Herklots MUSIC(DETROIT, CM): Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1820; harm. Margaret W. Mealy, 1985; harm. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-739819. All rights reserved.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles’ Creed” (Traditional) GtG p. 17**

**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.**

(continued...)

**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 changed hearts,
All: Renew the future for us all.

*God of our past, our present, and our future:
God of grace and new life, we come before you today,
glad to know you give us the chance to change our lives
when we have wandered away from your purposes.
We give you thanks for the encouragement and support
we receive from friends in Christ,
here in your church and wherever we meet them.
We thank you for relationships that have grown stronger
through the courage to forgive which you inspire in us.
Use us as signs and servants of the new possibilities you create.*

One: God of changed hearts,
All: Renew the future for us all.

*Christ our Companion,
make our community one that lives out your grace and mercy.
Today we pray for those among us and around us who are struggling to live
wisely and well,
who seek a way of integrity for the future.*

(continued...)

*We pray for those who are confronting addictions
or trying to change old habits that are harmful to health:
give them persistence and support.
We pray for those who want to end violence and anger in their lives:
give them courage and wisdom to walk a new way.*

One: God of changed hearts,
All: Renew the future for us all.

*We pray for those who have broken the law and now seek to make amends:
inspire us with good judgement and grace in action and relationships.
We pray for those who have broken their word and want to rebuild trust and
integrity:
show them how to take responsibility and live it out.*

One: God of changed hearts,
All: Renew the future for us all.

*We pray for those who are seeking new work, learning new skills, or
changing employment:
open new opportunities for them.
We pray for all of us who seek new ways to live out our faith
in this church and in this community:
help us communicate God's love in fresh ways so others catch the vision of
your love.*

One: God of changed hearts,
All: Renew the future for us all.

*We pray in silence for all those for whom the week ahead will hold deep
challenges, and who need your support and ours to face what the days will
bring.*

(Keep silence for 15 seconds)

*Spirit of transforming power, work in us and in all for whom we pray, as we
sum up our prayers in the words Jesus taught us:*

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: From generation to generation, God calls us to share God's redeeming love in the world. Let us offer God our gifts this day as tokens of that love, needed so much in our generation.

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

All: We give thanks to you, O God, because you have blessed us with so much. Yet we know that others have too little. Bless our gifts so they touch lives in need and become roots of justice in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "When We Are Living (*Pues si vivimos*)" GtG #822**

- 1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

(continued...)

**2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

**3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

**4. Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

*Words: Stanza 1: anon.; English trans. Elise S. Eslinger, 1983; stanzas 2-4, Roberto Escamilla, 1983; English trans. George Lockwood, 1987. Music: Spanish melody; arr. Barbara C. Mink, 1988. SOMOS DEL SEÑOR English Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)
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***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

One: Jesus set the challenging goal before us: to forgive someone not just seven times, but seventy times seven. So, take up the challenge as you go, and allow forgiveness to change your life. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and communion in the Holy Spirit bless and redeem you now and evermore.

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**