

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

**SEVENTEENTH 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 who is good.*

**All: We will call on God's name and make known God's wonderful works.**

*One: Seek the Lord continually.*

**All: We will watch and listen for signs of God's grace.**

*One: Together let us worship God.*

**All: We will rejoice in God's presence and praise God's holy name.**

**\*OPENING HYMN "Great Are You, Lord" (Great is the Lord) GtG 614**

**1. Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just  
by your power we trust in your love.**

**Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true;  
by your mercy you prove you are love.**

**Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!  
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.**

**Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voices;  
we lift up our voice: great are you, Lord!**

**Great are you, Lord**

*TEXT: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith, 1982, alt.; © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Company (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)*

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## **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

*God of our past, present and future,  
God of all creation,  
you open the world around us and fill it with creatures of your love and purpose.*

*The wonder of each creature declares your praise –  
the mountains state your majesty;  
the ripened field, your generosity;  
the oceans your power and the skies your grandeur.  
Birds sing of your freedom;  
the ant works with your persistence.*

*We pray that our work will honor your justice and mercy,  
and our relationships speak of your love and compassion.  
So may we praise you, O God,  
not just in this hour of worship, but in all our waking and our working.  
May we live your praise and promise  
through Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and always.*

*In confidence of your grace, we confess to you our sins:*

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God, you are the giver of all good gifts,  
yet our generosity is often limited.  
We complain about our circumstance.  
We compare ourselves to others  
and see what they have that we do not.  
We share some of what we have,  
but we worry about running short.  
Forgive us our jealousy and greed  
and give us generous hearts that trust in you day by day.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*One: While pouring water into the Baptismal font:*

*God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. Thanks be to God!*

**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: O God, from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity, so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior.*

**All: Amen.**

|                            |               |             |           |             |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>SCRIPTURE READINGS:</b> | Old Testament | Jonah       | 3:10-4:11 | <i>NRSV</i> |
|                            | Epistle       | Philippians | 1:21-30   | <i>NRSV</i> |
|                            | GOSPEL        | Matthew     | 20:1-16   | <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 are first or last, we are the Lord's.*

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

**SERMON** The Real 'Great Reversal' by Reverend Jen Warren-Hauser

**\*RESPONSE 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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**\*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.**

**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.**

*(continued...)*

**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 our Maker,*

**All: Make us a sharing people.**

*One: God of mystery and wonder,  
we look around at the beauty of the world  
and sense that you have given each precious thing its place  
and a way of sustaining itself.  
Thank you for your attention to the details of creation.*

*Yet we also see an aching world  
and sense that many precious things are under threat.  
Bless the work of faithful people everywhere to care for the climate  
and environment.  
Show us how we can protect what is at risk  
for the health of your whole creation.*

*One: God our Maker,*

**All: Make us a sharing people.**

*One: God of energy and life,  
We look around at the peoples of this world  
and see your imagination and dignity in every variety of face and  
culture.  
Thank you for the gifts you plant at the heart of humanity.*

*Yet we also see the aching of the hungry and hurting,  
and hear the groans of parents whose children die in their arms  
and the cries of children who fear tomorrow.  
Bless the ministries of your church across this country and around the  
world that bring healing and hope to lives at risk.*

*(continued...)*

*One: God our Maker,*  
**All: Make us a sharing people.**

*One: God of promise and possibility,  
We look around at the places where people collide with each other  
and hear the grumbling of nations locked into old rivalries and new  
grievances.  
We watch the jousting of leaders impressed more by polls than  
effective policies.  
We worry about the future of our communities and our children.  
Thank you for the ministries of advocacy your church undertakes  
and the witness for justice and peace we make together in Jesus' name.*

*One: God our Maker,*  
**All: Make us a sharing people.**

*One: God of faithfulness and surprise,  
We look at ourselves  
and sometimes doubt we can make a difference or have an impact.  
Challenge us to recognise the kinds of power we do have:  
The love and compassion,  
The courage and commitment,  
The laughter and friendship,  
The generosity and mercy.  
In all of these gifts we know your power is at work within us and  
among us.  
Call us to keep serving together,  
trusting you can do more than we can ask or imagine  
through your church, our congregation, and our own lives,  
blessed by the grace of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Traditional)

**Our Father,  
who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,**  
*(continued...)*

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

## MINUTE for MISSION

World Communion Sunday by Carol Gurber.

## OFFERING

### *Invitation*

*One: God of miracles and of mercy, all creation sings your praise.  
Like the vineyard owner, your grace is extravagant and unexpected.  
Gather the gifts we offer today, that we may witness to your love,  
which embraces both those we call friend and those we call stranger.  
Amen.*

### *Reflection*

### *\*Prayer of Dedication*

**All: Generous God, you are the source of all good things, of life  
itself and all that sustains it. Bless the gifts we offer this day. By  
your Spirit, multiply their impact to support your purposes in the  
world you love in the name of Christ, our Savior and Friend.  
Amen.**

## **\*SENDING HYMN “All Who Love and Serve Your City” GtG #351**

- 1. All who love and serve your city,  
all who bear its daily stress,  
all who cry for peace and justice,  
all who curse and all who bless:**

*(continued...)*

2. In your day of wealth and plenty,  
wasted work and wasted play  
call to mind the word of Jesus,  
“You must work while it is day.”
3. For all days are days of judgment,  
and the Lord is waiting still,  
drawing near a world that spurns him,  
offering peace from Calvary’s hill.
4. Risen Lord, shall yet the city  
be the city of despair?  
Come today, our judge, our glory.  
Be its name “The Lord is there!”

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#### **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*One: Go, remembering God’s generosity to us in Christ and in creation. Be generous in kindness to all who reach out to you. May the power of the Spirit strengthen you, and the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge fill you with the fullness of God this day and evermore.*

#### **POSTLUDE**

**\*Standing if able.**