

August 9, 2026 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Mission – *Sacred Ground*

GATHERING

Prelude

Presentation of Gifts

Responsive Call to Worship

Come Jesus, come.

We welcome your presence.

Come Jesus, come.

We long for your peace.

Come Jesus, come.

We wait for your voice.

Opening Prayer

Prince of peace,

you calm the raging seas

and speak in silent stillness.

Bring us peace that only you can provide

and restore the joy of our salvation,

that we might find the wisdom

to recognize you in unexpected places

and the courage to follow,

for your name's sake,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Opening Hymn No. 408 – *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,

and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;

there are sweet expressions on each face,

and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,

stay right here with us, filling us with your love;

and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;

without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived

when we shall leave this place.

2 There are blessings you cannot receive

till you know him in his fullness and believe;

you're the one to profit when you say,

"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,

stay right here with us, filling us with your love;

and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;

without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived

when we shall leave this place.

Children's Song – *Where Children Belong*

**This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
this is where children belong.**

Children's Moments – *Blessing of the Backpacks*

Children's Prayer

Parents, may the Holy Spirit remind you that as covenant partners,
our faith community is here for you and your children.

As you send them to be molded and shaped in knowledge,
may you remember they are gifts from God.

Know that God's blessing is with you to help them reach their potential
because they are made in the image of God.

As you prepare clothes, lunches, and backpacks,

May we be filled with peace.

As you challenge and encourage them to grow.

**May we have perseverance and
marvel at God's new work in the world.**

Educators, may God's blessing, protection,
and Spirit be upon you as you guide,
lead, serve, and comfort students.

As you educate God's children of all ages,

May we be filled with mercy and wisdom.

As you encounter challenging situations
and challenging students,

**May we love and serve as Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit.**

Students, may God surround you with
blessings and protection as you carry
these backpacks for this new school year.

As you carry notes, books, and assignments,
know that you also carry the love of Christ
to see everyone around you as someone loved by God.

May we be filled with God's grace.

As you grow in wisdom and knowledge

May we grow in compassion.

Amen.

Amen.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,
it is easy to confess with our lips that you are Lord,
but it is much harder to believe with our hearts,
to live in a way that puts you first.**

We are quick to trust in idols.

**We depend on what we can see, touch, and control,
instead of waiting to hear your still, small voice.**

**Forgive us, Lord, and help our unbelief,
so that what we confess with our lips
we may truly believe in our hearts.**

Assurance of Pardon

Response No. 447 – *We Are Forgiven*
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace of Christ
Peace be with you.
And also, with you.

LEARNING

Anthem – *Any Dream Will Do* – Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jason Donovan

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson – *Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28*

Sermon

Hymn of Response No. 754 – *Help Us Accept Each Other

**1 Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.**

**2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.**

**3 Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.**

**4 Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!**

***Affirmation of Faith** – adapted from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.32–33

**The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.**

**His service to men and women
commits the church
to work for every form of human well-being.**

**His suffering makes the church sensitive
to all human suffering
so that it sees the face of Christ
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.**

**In the power of the risen Christ
the church sees the promise
of God's renewal of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.**

**The church follows this pattern
in the form of its life
and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve
is to confess Christ as Lord.**

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Spiritual Role of Leadership in a Congregation

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Calling Servants to Vows of Service

Constitutional Questions for Elders and Deacons

Congregational Questions

Prayer of Ordination/Installation and Laying on of Hands

Declaration of Ordination/Installation

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People

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

Offertory

*Doxology No. 606 – *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of unending gifts,
we praise you for your abundant goodness.
As you are generous,
we want to be generous too.
May the gifts we bring
extend your generosity into the world,
so that all people may be made whole
by your goodness and grace. Amen.

SENDING

*Sending Hymn No. 649 (vs. 1, 3, 5) – *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Lora East, Pastor
Zachary Esman, Acolyte
Esman Family, Presentation of Gifts
Paula Gentner, Liturgist
Erika Stiner, Director of Children's Spirituality
Josh Clapp, Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Laurie Doyal-Lampman, Session Clerk Pro Tem
Christian Carpenter, Media Technician
Zachary Ridgway, Organist / Pianist
Keith Martinez, Director of Choral Music
Antony Carpenter, Safira Carpenter, Lucy Llera, and Jen Mitchell, Greeters

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Liturgy is adapted from the *Call to Worship Journal* for August 9, 2026.