



# *Order of Worship*

16th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 8, 2024

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**Gathering and Welcome** *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

**Prelude** *When in Our Music God is Glorified* – by Charles Stanford  
Jessye Whitis, pianist

**Call to worship** (Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

**\*Opening Hymn # 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

**Call to confession**

God knows us completely. God knows our hearts and discerns our thoughts. Let us then confess what we carry within us that does not honor God or God's path of righteousness.

**Prayer of confession**

**Holy God, although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Amen.**

**Assurance of pardon** (*Book of Common Worship*)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

**Choral Anthem** *I Will Sing Praise Unto the Lord* – arr. Joseph Martin

**Prayer for illumination**

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid and distract ourselves from your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer in this worship moment.

**Scripture readings** Psalm 125: 1 – 5; Mark 7: 24 - 37

**Sermon** *Church Is Getting Boring*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

**Affirmation of faith** (*Book of Common Worship*; Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Response # 435** *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*

**Call for the offering**

We have more to offer than we recognize or realize. God has given us abundant gifts. Let us faithfully respond to our generous God, by presenting our tithes and offerings.

**Offertory** *Breathe On Me, Breath of God* – arr. Mark Hayes

**Prayer of dedication**

Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

## **Prayers of Remembrance for 9/11**

O God, our hope and refuge,  
in our distress we come quickly to you.  
Shock and horror of the tragic day have subsided,  
replaced now with an emptiness,  
a longing for an innocence lost.

We come remembering those who lost their lives  
in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.

We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants  
who demonstrated the greatest love of all,  
by laying down their lives for friends.  
We commit their souls to your eternal care  
and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity.

We come remembering,  
and we come in hope,  
not in ourselves, but in you.

As foundations we once thought secure have been shaken,  
we are reminded of the illusion of security.

In commemorating this tragedy,  
we give you thanks for your presence  
in our time of need,  
and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth,  
our guide and our guardian. **Amen.**

*The Rev. Jeremy Pridgeon*

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers  
up to you, God. Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying,  
“**Our Father...**”

## **\*Hymn of Sending # 8 *Eternal Father, Strong to Save***

### **Charge and benediction**

May we leave this house of worship today, following God’s Spirit into the  
world, calling us to an inclusive, barrier-breaking love.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and  
Sustainer be with you now and always. Amen.

## **Postlude *In Christ There Is No East or West***

Jessye Whitis, pianist

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott.