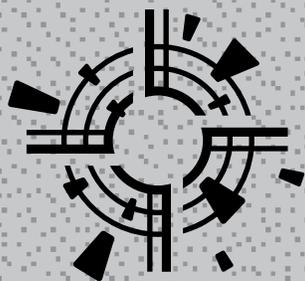


Child of
Blessing
Lectionary
Resource
Installment 4



PRESBYTERIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
MUSICIANS



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Introduction

With this installment, we turn to the summer months: Sundays that can be unpredictable in attendance. Some of your congregations might slow down and have fewer programs. Maybe that is freeing or maybe it can be hard to capture the energy of your worshipers. Whatever the rhythms might be for you, I hope the materials here will provide words, songs, and movements that lead your community to wonder and renewal.

This installment's contributors, Adrienne Whiteside and Rev. Susan Landrum, have offered beautiful introductions to their work. Please read and take their words to heart. I also encourage you not to overlook the conversation guide on page 4 of this resource. Each installment this year has offered a brief way to engage your community in congregation-wide reflection around the topic of inter-generational worship. If you have not yet found a way to engage these questions, perhaps the summer months can offer a slower, more relaxed setting for these important questions. Feel free to glance back at previous installments, either to play catch-up or to choose the topics that best fit your setting.

As always, I am grateful to each of your communities for trying this on with us. Thank you for your feedback, ideas, and shared support as we continue together.

Love,



Melissa McNair-King
Program Manager, Child of Blessing

THEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Each installment of this resource will feature a theological concept that has implications for multigenerational worship. Use this as a prompt for small group conversation in your community.

Intergenerational practices of worship are not just for the benefit of children—they are good for the whole church. Like worship itself, our formation in faith is a communal endeavor. This is how we grow together into “full stature of Christ,” who “promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love” (Eph. 4:13, 16).

**How might older and younger members learn from one another?
Why is it important for the whole body of Christ to learn and grow together?**

David Gambrell

INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY

The summer months bring different rhythms for different congregations, rhythms that also accompany Ordinary Time after Pentecost. Travel for congregants, programmatic shifts, and transitions for families are often part of these months. Like a welcome anchor in a sea of change, weekly worship can bring consistency and support while remaining flexible and attentive. Summer months can also be a time to try new things in worship, to invite more spontaneous participation, and to accompany congregants in transitional times. Worship can also support children as they prepare to enter new classrooms with new teachers and friends. What follows are considerations and ideas for this season, including a service of blessing as children enter a new school year.

Call to Worship

Invite children and youth to lead the call to worship when appropriate for your context.

Confession and Pardon

Building on the movements introduced in Lent and Easter (installments 2 and 3), *this installment also includes suggestions about how to engage the body during confession and pardon.*

If your worship space allows, lead the confession sequence from the font, pouring water during the assurance of pardon. A child or youth can be invited to pour water and/or to offer the assurance of pardon.

If your service includes a children’s sermon, build a children’s sermon series around why we confess. You may also incorporate this into the sermon. *Some important theological considerations for confession and pardon include:*

Theology of Confession and Pardon
 Confidence in God's love and grace
 Honesty about who we are
 Naming limits and seeking forgiveness
 Turning from sin and evil
 Reorientation to God in Christ
 Asking for help to repair relationships
 Living in God's justice with God's help

Think of the confession and pardon sequence as a grace sandwich. We can talk about how we name our sins, but no matter what, we are always created out of God's love. Grace precedes all and follows all. This grace makes it possible—and necessary—to confess the ways we mess up, knowing that God loves us, no matter what.

We speak honestly with compassion. In confession, we tell the truth about the ways we are separated from God in what we do and what we leave undone. We also tell the truth about our shame. Sometimes we do things that make us feel bad about ourselves. This can look like guilt, and even worse, it can feel like shame. This is sometimes unavoidable, but coming to God with honesty is a safe place for those painful feelings. Worship should never be a place that induces shame, but it can be a container to help us hold it.

We are in this together. We confess together because we all need grace. We all mess up! We're human! We are made in God's image and capable of compassion, kindness, and goodness. We also make mistakes individually and together, in community.

We take responsibility. Confession helps us notice hurt and choose justice. We are part of communities and can't avoid participating in systems that aren't always faithful or healthy. Being human means we can't avoid some of these things. Being honest and taking responsibility for our actions matters, though. We might not be able to fix everything, but we can try to follow the way of Jesus, no matter how long that process may take. Taking responsibility is an essential first step.

Confession and pardon can be a place for honesty, healing, courage, and belonging. The words we say out loud together should be rooted in these beliefs about God and one another.

The liturgy offered here considers this theology in conversation with the texts for each week through the Time after Pentecost and repeats each for two to four weeks. Repeating confession and pardon sequences allows time for worshipers of all ages to engage more deeply with the content over time.

Susan Landrum

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC

The season after Pentecost, often referred to as Ordinary Time, is a period dedicated to reflecting on Christ's daily life and teachings, encouraging spiritual growth, and faithful living.

The Lectionary texts appointed for Proper 9 through Proper 20 in Year A emphasize several core themes: God's steadfast love and presence, the enduring authority of God's word and wisdom, the call to discipleship and service, and the practice of forgiveness and building community.

My approach to selecting these hymns was both scriptural and thematic. I aimed for easily singable songs that not only matched the specific weekly lectionary texts but also resonated with the overarching themes of the season. The selections offer a variety of styles and cultures of origin, including familiar tunes. A primary goal was accessibility, choosing texts that can be easily understood by worshippers of all ages and tunes that are readily learned and modeled, regardless of a person's musical background.

Adrienne Whiteside

ABBREVIATIONS LIST

ACS	<i>All Creation Sings: ELW Supplement</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 2020)
ELW	<i>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 2006)
G3	<i>Gather, 3rd ed.</i> (GIA, 2011)
GTG	<i>Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal</i> (Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)
LS	<i>LifeSongs</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 1999)
LUYH	<i>Lift Up Your Hearts</i> (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)
PFAS	<i>Psalms for All Seasons</i> (Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, 2012)
SL	<i>Songs for Life</i> (CRC, 1995)
SNC	<i>Sing! A New Creation</i> (CRC, 2002)
SSS	<i>Santo, Santo, Santo</i> (GIA, 2019)
OLOF	<i>One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism</i> (GIA, 2018)
UMH	<i>United Methodist Hymnal</i> (The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989)
VT	<i>Voices Together</i> (MennoMedia, 2020)
BWM	<i>Birdwing Music</i> (Admin: EMICMGPublishing.com)
MSP	<i>Mountain Spring Music and Straightaway Music</i> (Admin: EMICMGPublishing.com)
SHM	<i>Shepherd's Heart Music</i> (Admin: praisecharts.com)
UM-BBP	<i>Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing</i>
EWC	1974 Ecumenical Women's Center

- ILP 1987 International Liturgy Publications
- CEL 1970, 1974, 1975 *Celebration*
- FAR *Faith Alive Resources*
- EWV Estate of Wendell P. Whalum
- DWS Used by permission of Estate of Doris Wright Smith
- MWC Used by permission, Melva Wilson Coston
- RMM Used by permission, Raquel Mora Martinez
- JFP Used by permission (text), Joy F. Patterson
- MMS Used by permission (text), Medical Mission Sisters
- JEC Used by permission, James E. Clemens

Playlist Link

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlists that include recordings of many of the congregational song suggestions in this installment. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



Time After Pentecost

Congregational Song

GATHERING

Call to Worship

O Sing to the Lord (Cantai ao Senhor), AF, GTG #637

Thy Word, WORD, GTG #458 (O, Proper 10)

You Are Before Me, Lord (Psalm 139), *DWS, GTG #28 (O, Proper 11)

Our God is an Awesome God, *UM-BBP, GTG #616 (O, Proper 20)

Opening Hymns

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, GTG #275 (O, Proper 12, Proper 17)

To God Be the Glory, GTG #634

I Will Exalt My God, My King, Psalm 145 (Te exaltare, mi Dios, Mi Rey), *RMM, GTG #622

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure (Psalm 145), *JFP, GTG #42

O God in a Mysterious Way, GTG #30

Jesus Loves Me, GTG #188 (G, Proper 19)

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven, *EWC, GTG #619 (O, Proper 19)

Great is Thy Faithfulness, HOPE, GTG #39

Kyrie/Petition

Help Us Accept Each Other , HOPE, GTG #754 (E, Proper 19)

O For a World GTG #372 (E, Proper 17)

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive, verse 1, GIA, GTG #444 (G, Proper 14; O, G Proper 19)

Gloria/Response to Forgiveness

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak, *SHM, GTG #519

There Is A Redeemer, verse 1, *BWM, GTG #443

The Steadfast Love of the Lord, (Psalm 105), *CEL, GTG #59

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, Come to Us, GIA, GTG #284

Thy Word, *WORD, GTG #458 (O, Proper 10)

Hymns Responding to the Word

Help Us Accept Each Other, HOPE, GTG #754

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive, GIA GTG #444 (G, Proper 14; O, G Proper 19)

O For a World, GTG #372

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love, HOPE, GTG #203 (E, G Proper 18)
 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (Tu has venido a la orilla), OCP, GTG # 721
 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (The Servant Song) *UM-BBP, GTG #727 (E, Proper 16, Proper 17)
 Do Not Be Afraid, GIA, GTG #76 (O, Proper 19)
 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, GTG #435 (E, G, Proper 14, O, G, Proper 19)

EUCCHARIST

Doxology

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven (verse 1), *EWC, GTG #619 (O, Proper 19)
 God We Honor You, *JEC, GTG #709 (opt.canon)
 Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise, AF, GTG #648

Communion Hymns and Responses

Seed, Scattered and Sown, *ILP, GTG #531
 Bread of Life from Heaven, GIA, GTG #497 (G, Proper 13)
 Loves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken, GIA, GTG #498
 Your Only Son (Lamb of God), MSP, GTG #518

9

SENDING

Sending/Closing Hymns

May the God of Hope Go with Us, Argentine Folk Melody, GTG #765
 Send Me, Jesus, WAL, GTG #746
 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, *CEL, GTG #377 (E, Proper 18)
 I The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord), OCP, GTG #69
 Christ Be Beside Me, *FAR, GTG #702 (E, Proper 20)
 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight, GIA, GTG #817 (O, Proper 17)
 Seek Ye First, *UM-BBP, GTG #175 (E, Proper 14)
 Will You Come and Follow Me, GIA, GTG #726
 Go to the World, GIA, GTG #295

Benediction Response

Send Me, Jesus, WAL, GTG #746
 Go, My Children, with my Blessing (verse 1) CON, GTG #547
 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (verse 1), *EWW, GTG #700

A Service of Blessing the Backpacks/Blessing for a New School Year

Notes

Choose a Sunday close to or in the midst of the first days of school.

Create or provide some kind of physical object for your children, youth, and lifelong learners to take with them from worship. A backpack tag designed like a luggage tag is a great option.

Consider commissioning children and youth to make art and incorporating it into the bulletin or worship space.

This is also an opportunity to engage your congregation in a service project by hosting a school supply drive to benefit a local organization that ensures these materials get into the hands of children and youth who need them.

Invite congregants to bring their backpacks, bags, and donations to worship. This can also be done **WITHOUT** backpacks.

Gather somewhere in the front of the worship space at a designated time. This could be part of the children's moment if that is a practice of your church or the prayers of the people.

GATHERING

Friends, we gather as we begin a new school year.
We are knit together in community by God's love.
Look around and see the faces of the people who love you
and are rooting for you as you take your next steps. (Pause)

We are with you.
God is with you, guiding the way.

SCRIPTURE

Listen now for how scripture assures us of God's presence.

Psalm 121:8

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

You might engage children and youth in a conversation about scripture, asking,

“what parts bring you comfort and peace?” or “what is God doing?”

BLESSING AND PRAYER

*Invite those gathered to extend their hands forward for the blessing.
Invite learners gathered to hold palms up to receive the blessing.
You may engage youth by asking them to lead the prayer.*

Gracious God,
Thank you for the new year ahead of us.
Thank you for everything that made it possible for us to be here today,
for our friends, our family, our teachers,
and all the people who have supported us along the way.
Thank you for new opportunities,
for all the people we are about to meet who will make this year possible
and for our new teachers, educators, and classmates.

Compassionate God,
Guide us as we start something new,
as we walk into new classrooms, make new friends, and learn in new ways.
Open our imaginations to new ideas and our hearts to new people.
Surround our teachers with wisdom and energy.
Bring friends and family alongside us to go with us into this new season.

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Teach us the ways of Jesus as we go,
that we might love the way Jesus loved,
make peace in new places,
serve our neighbors,
and learn gentleness with ourselves in transitions and new rhythms.
Surround us with your blessing as we echo one another, repeating:

Worship leader speaks short lines and asks the congregation to repeat after them.

Go with us, God.
Go with us, God.
Open our hearts to new people.
Open our hearts to new people.
Give us courage for new things.
Give us courage for new things.
Help us love like Jesus.
Help us love like Jesus. Amen.

JULY 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost/Proper 9

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67 Isaac finds a wife, Rebekah, in the homeland of his father.
 Psalm 45:10–17 A royal love song; come with joy to the palace of the king.
 or Song of Solomon 2:8–13 One lover calls to another: Arise, my love, and come away.

Complementary

Zechariah 9:9–12 Rejoice, O people; the humble king is coming to set you free.
 Psalm 145:8–14 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, full of love.
 Romans 7:15–25a Paul confesses his inner conflict with sin; only God can save.
 Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30 Jesus says: Come to me; my yoke is easy, my burden is light.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Encourage those gathered, especially young voices, to say “Jesus invites us all.”

Practice once or twice together.

Come to this place to worship together.

Jesus invites us all.

Come to this place, every kind of person.

Jesus invites us all.

Come to this place, whether you are ready or not so sure.

Jesus invites us all.

Come to this place to find rest and grace.

Jesus invites us all.

Let us worship God together, invited and loved by Jesus!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

We can be honest because we are so loved by the one who created us.

With humility, let us confess together.

As we do so, I invite you to open your hands on your lap
to receive the love that surrounds you.

Gracious God,

you know us and you love us.

Forgive us when we do not love like Jesus.

Forgive us when give our energy in the wrong places.

Help us to learn what it means to follow,

**that your love might grow in us—small at first, like a seed,
but full of your abundant grace.**

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we are loved and forgiven.

We move forward as those who have been made new,
growing and sharing in God’s grace. Thanks be to God!

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 10

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Genesis 25:19–34

Esau trades his birthright to Jacob for bread and lentil stew.

Psalms 119:105–112

Your word is a lamp to my feet; I have promised to observe it.

Complementary

Isaiah 55:10–13

The word of the Lord will go forth to flourish and bear fruit.

Psalms 65:(1–8) 9–13

Praise is due to God, who blesses the earth with abundance.

Romans 8:1–11

The Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death.

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Jesus tells and explains the parable of the sower and the seeds.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God takes care of us.

We have everything we need.

God leads us beside still waters.

We have everything we need.

God sets a table for us.

We have everything we need.

We will live with God forever.

We have everything we need.

Thanks be to God.

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CONFESSION AND PARDON

We can be honest because we are so loved by the one who created us.

With humility, let us confess together.

As we do so, I invite you to open your hands on your lap

to receive the love that surrounds you.

Gracious God,

you know us and you love us.

Forgive us when we do not love like Jesus.

Forgive us when we give our energy in the wrong places.

Help us to learn what it means to follow,

**that your love might grow in us—small at first, like a seed,
but full of your abundant grace.**

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we are loved and forgiven.

We move forward as those who have been made new,
growing and sharing in God's grace. Thanks be to God!

JULY 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 11

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Genesis 28:10–19a Jacob dreams of a ladder and hears the promise of the Lord.

Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 O Lord, you have searched me; if I ascend to heaven you are there.

Complementary

Isaiah 44:6–8 I am the first and last, says the Lord; there is no god besides me.

Psalm 86:11–17 O Lord, give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

Romans 8:12–25 The whole creation waits for redemption with the children of God.

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 Another parable of the kingdom; weeds grow among the wheat.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creating God,

You know us and you love us.

Loving God,

You search for us and you find us.

Just God,

You care about the whole world and you help us.

Let us worship our Holy Triune God!

Creator, Teacher, and Guide. Amen!**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

We can be honest because we are so loved by the one who created us.

With humility, let us confess together.

As we do so, I invite you to open your hands on your lap

to receive the love that surrounds you.

Gracious God,**you know us and you love us.****Forgive us when we do not love like Jesus.****Forgive us when give our energy in the wrong places.****Help us to learn what it means to follow,****that your love might grow in us—small at first, like a seed,****but full of your abundant grace.****In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we are loved and forgiven.

We move forward as those who have been made new,

growing and sharing in God's grace. Thanks be to God!

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 12

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Genesis 29:15–28 Tricked by Laban, Jacob first marries Leah, then Rachel.
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b Children of Jacob, give thanks for the promise of the Lord.
or Psalm 128 The one who fears the Lord will enjoy progeny and prosperity.

Complementary

1 Kings 3:5–12 The young king Solomon asks God for wisdom and discernment.
Psalm 119:129–136 Your law is wonderful; the unfolding of your words gives light.
Romans 8:26–39 The Spirit helps us; nothing can separate us from God's love.
Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52 God's kingdom is like a tiny seed, yeast, a treasure, a pearl, a net.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All things work together for good.

God's love calls us here.

All people are invited.

God's love calls us here.

God is for us.

God's love calls us here.

God is with us.

God's love calls us here.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus,

Amen!

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CONFESSION AND PARDON

We can be honest because we are so loved by the one who created us.
With humility, let us confess together. As we do so, I invite you to open your
hands on your lap to receive the love that surrounds you.

**Gracious God,
you know us and you love us.
Forgive us when we do not love like Jesus.
Forgive us when give our energy in the wrong places.
Help us to learn what it means to follow,
that your love might grow in us—small at first, like a seed,
but full of your abundant grace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we are loved and forgiven.
We move forward as those who have been made new,
growing and sharing in God's grace. Thanks be to God!

AUGUST 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost/Proper 13

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Genesis 32:22–31 Jacob wrestles with a man from God, and receives a blessing.
 Psalm 17:1–7, 15 Visit and test me in the night, O Lord; I will behold your face.

Complementary

Isaiah 55:1–5 Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; eat and be satisfied.
 Psalm 145:8–9, 14–21 The Lord is gracious and merciful, giving food in due season.
 Romans 9:1–5 Paul struggles with the issue of Israel's relationship to the church.
 Matthew 14:13–21 With five loaves and two fish, Jesus feeds a great multitude.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is often a communion Sunday. On this or other Sundays when the Eucharist is celebrated, invite children and youth to carry the communion elements into the sanctuary during the call to worship.

God gives us water when we are thirsty. *Place cup on the table.*

Our God is great!

God fills us when we are hungry. *Place plate/bread on the table.*

Our God is great!

God takes a little and makes it enough.

Our God is great!

Let us worship the one who loves, who strengthens, and who satisfies us.

Amen!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

In God's community, forgiveness and repair are holy works.
 As we confess together, I invite you to rest your hands with your palms facing up to orient yourself towards God's love.

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of one another.

Thank you for the people who make our days better.

Forgive us when we are not loving to the people who love us.

**Forgive us when we do not help one another
 because we disagree or have hurt feelings.**

Give us your grace

**so we can learn to listen, to apologize,
 and to love with the care of Jesus. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God's love and mercy heals us when we are hurt
 and when we have hurt others.

In Jesus Christ, we are loved, forgiven, and strengthened to begin again.

Thanks be to God!

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 14

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28 Out of jealousy, Joseph’s brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt.
Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b God sent Joseph to Egypt to save the people in a time of famine.

Complementary

1 Kings 19:9–18 Elijah hears the word of the Lord—not in the storm, but in silence.
Psalm 85:8–13 Let me hear what the Lord will speak; God will speak peace.
Romans 10:5–15 Proclaim the word of faith: confess Jesus as Lord, and be saved.
Matthew 14:22–33 Jesus walks on the water to meet his disciples, and calms a storm.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Invite a young person to lead.

We say it out loud together,
God is good!
We say it out loud together,
Jesus is Lord!
We say it out loud together,
The Holy Spirit meets us here!
Let us worship God. Amen.

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CONFESSION AND PARDON

In God’s community, forgiveness and repair are holy works.
As we confess together, I invite you to rest your hands with your palms facing up to orient yourself towards God’s love.

Loving God,
Thank you for the gift of one another.
Thank you for the people who make our days better.
Forgive us when we are not loving to the people who love us.
Forgive us when we do not help one another
because we disagree or have hurt feelings.
Give us your grace
so we can learn to listen, to apologize,
and to love with the care of Jesus. Amen.

Hear the good news:
God’s love and mercy heals us when we are hurt
and when we have hurt others.
In Jesus Christ, we are loved, forgiven, and strengthened to begin again.
Thanks be to God!

AUGUST 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 15

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Genesis 45:1–15

Joseph is reunited with his brothers; the family will move to Egypt.

Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.

Complementary

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

The Lord will welcome foreigners along with the outcasts of Israel.

Psalm 67

God's saving power is known among all the nations of the earth.

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

God has not rejected Israel, but desires to show mercy to all.

Matthew 15:(10–20) 21–28

Debate about what defiles; a Canaanite woman shows great faith.

CALL TO WORSHIP*Invite a young person to lead.*

We come together

to listen for God.

We come together

to remember what Jesus taught.

We come together

to be filled with God's love.

We come together

to learn what is good.

We come together

to worship the God with us, who created us and loves us.**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

In God's community, forgiveness and repair are holy works.

As we confess together, I invite you to rest your hands with your palms facing up to orient yourself towards God's love.

Loving God,**Thank you for the gift of one another.****Thank you for the people who make our days better.****Forgive us when we are not loving to the people who love us.****Forgive us when we do not help one another****because we disagree or have hurt feelings.****Give us your grace****so we can learn to listen, to apologize,****and to love with the care of Jesus. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God's love and mercy heals us when we are hurt
and when we have hurt others.

In Jesus Christ, we are loved, forgiven, and strengthened to begin again.

Thanks be to God!

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 16

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Exodus 1:8–2:10

Pharaoh orders the drowning of Hebrew boys, but Moses is spared.

Psalm 124

Were the Lord not on our side, the water would have consumed us.

Complementary

Isaiah 51:1–6

Look to the rock from which you were hewed; God will deliver.

Psalm 138

I sing your praise, O Lord; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Romans 12:1–8

Offer yourselves to God as a living sacrifice; one body, many gifts.

Matthew 16:13–20

Who is Jesus? Peter answers: You are the Messiah, the Son of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Invite a young person to lead.

We gather to worship God,
Who made heaven and earth.

We gather to worship God,
Whom we find in surprising places.

We gather to worship God,
Who cares for all of creation.

We gather to worship God,
Who transforms and renews us through grace.
Let us worship our Holy God together!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God is both just and loving.

We confess with humility and courage, since both God knows us and forgives us.

To embody this, I invite you to bring your hands together and rest them in one another, as if holding both of these truths.

God, you are loving and just.
Forgive us when we do not care for all of creation
and when we do not care for one another.
Guide us when things are unfair
so we can learn what your justice means
and share your love on earth.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

God's mercy frees us to act with courage and compassion.
In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

AUGUST 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 17

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Exodus 3:1–15 Moses meets the Lord in a burning bush, and learns God's name.
 Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b Give thanks to the Lord, who sent Moses to set the people free.

Complementary

Jeremiah 15:15–21 Jeremiah laments his calling, but God promises to redeem him.
 Psalm 26:1–8 Vindicate me, O Lord; I have trusted you and walked in integrity.
 Romans 12:9–21 Love one another; seek what is good; live peaceably with all.
 Matthew 16:21–28 Jesus says: If any wish to follow me, they must take up their cross.

CALL TO WORSHIP*Invite a young person to lead.*

Come and listen! God is calling.
God calls us together.

Come and listen! God is calling.
God calls us to holy ground.

Come and listen! God is calling.
God calls each of us to love and serve the Lord.

Come and listen! God is calling.
God calls us to worship and sends us out
 to love one another and to work for justice.
Let us worship the God who calls us here.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God is both just and loving.
 We confess with humility and courage,
 since God both knows us and forgives us.
 To embody this, I invite you to bring your hands together
 and rest them in one another, as if holding both of these truths.

God, you are loving and just.
Forgive us when we do not care for all of creation
and when we do not care for one another.
Guide us when things are unfair
so we can learn what your justice means
and share your love on earth.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

God's mercy frees us to act with courage and compassion.
 In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 18

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Exodus 12:1–14 Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.
 Psalm 149 Let the faithful praise the Lord with tambourine and dancing.

Complementary

Ezekiel 33:7–11 The Lord desires that the wicked turn away from evil, and live.
 Psalm 119:33–40 Teach me your way, O Lord: to turn from vanity and disgrace.
 Romans 13:8–14 Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near.
 Matthew 18:15–20 Jesus says: seek reconciliation; when you gather I am with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Offer children instruments or noise makers to use during the call to worship. You may decide to collect the instruments during the first hymn if they are problematic during other portions of worship. OR you may decide to leave them in a designated location where they can be used again during congregational singing.

21

Praise the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Praise the Lord.

Praise with tambourines and with dance.

Praise the Lord.

Praise with full voices and open hearts.

Praise the Lord.

Let all the children of God rejoice together! Amen.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God is both just and loving.

We confess with humility and courage,
 since God both knows us and forgives us.

To embody this, I invite you to bring your hands together
 and rest them in one another, as if holding both of these truths.

God, you are loving and just.

**Forgive us when we do not care for all of creation
 and when we do not care for one another.**

**Guide us when things are unfair
 so we can learn what your justice means
 and share your love on earth.**

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

God's mercy frees us to act with courage and compassion.
 In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 19

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Exodus 14:19–31 At the sea, God delivers the Israelites from the Egyptian army.
 Psalm 114 The earth shakes and the sea retreats in the presence of the Lord.
 or Exodus 15:1b–11, 20–21 Moses and Miriam sing praise to God, who has delivered them.

Complementary

Genesis 50:15–21 Joseph's brothers seek forgiveness; God turned their evil to good.
 Psalm 103:(1–7) 8–13 Bless the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, forgiving our sin.
 Romans 14:1–12 Refrain from judgment; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
 Matthew 18:21–35 A lesson in forgiveness from a parable about debts and debtors.

CALL TO WORSHIP*Invite a young person to lead.*

We rejoice together today.

We are in God's house.

We rejoice together today.

We are united in God's love.

We rejoice together today.

We sing God's song of justice.

Let us worship together.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God meets us again with patient love.

Let us confess our sin as we continue growing toward grace.

To embody this,

I invite you to hold your fingers together like you are holding a seed
and throughout the prayer, slowly open your hand.**God of grace,****you are always helping us to grow through the Holy Spirit.****Sometimes we think we can grow all on our own.****Sometimes we think that growth looks like power
rather than love.****Forgive us.****Strengthen our faith****so that we are more loving, more kind, and more just,
in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

God is the soil for our growth,

and God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.

In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 20

Color: Green

Semicontinuous

Exodus 16:2–15 The people complain of hunger; God gives food in the wilderness.
Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45 Give thanks to the Lord, who gave food and drink in the desert.

Complementary

Jonah 3:10–4:11 God's mercy angers Jonah; God teaches a lesson through a bush.
Psalm 145:1–8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.
Philippians 1:21–30 Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel.
Matthew 20:1–16 The parable of laborers in the vineyard; the last will be first.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is good.
God is great.
God gives us all we need.
God is just.
God is kind.
God gives us all we need.
We meet here to praise God.
We gather here to meet Jesus.
We come here to be gathered up by the Holy Spirit.
Let us worship God together in love. Amen.

23

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God meets us again with patient love.
Let us confess our sin as we continue growing toward grace.
To embody this,
I invite you to hold your fingers together like you are holding a seed
and throughout the prayer, slowly open your hand.

God of grace,
you are always helping us to grow through the Holy Spirit.
Sometimes we think we can grow all on our own.
Sometimes we think that growth looks like power
rather than love.
Forgive us.
Strengthen our faith
so that we are more loving, more kind, and more just,
in the name of Jesus. Amen.

God is the soil for our growth,
and God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.
In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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