



Traditional Worship Service
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude on "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand"

Jean Langlais

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Family of God, we live in a world full of conflict and division.

God calls us to be a people of reconciliation.

We live in a world full of misinformation and confusion.

God calls us to be a people of truth and clarity.

We live in a world that wants to settle disputes with harmful words and actions.

God calls us to be a people who make peace through compassion and honesty.

We live in a world that does not understand the ways of Jesus.

Yet Jesus teaches us to be a people of reconciliation and peace for the good of the whole world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

#478

LAUDA ANIMA

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good," <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>. Used with permission.

*Please stand if you are able.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Phil Fair

Hebrew Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Karen Kinney

“Bound Together: The Courageous Work of Community”

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Looking at both passages, how do shared rituals (like Passover/communion) and shared accountability (like conflict resolution) serve as the twin pillars that hold a community together?

*SERMON HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail (from *Glory to God* – see back page)

TWENTY-FOURTH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the *PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith, 1983*)

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory My Song Shall Be Alway of the Loving-kindness of the Lord
Chancel Choir

Gerald Near

*Doxology

#592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN

#357

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on Psalm 117

Allen Orton Gibbs

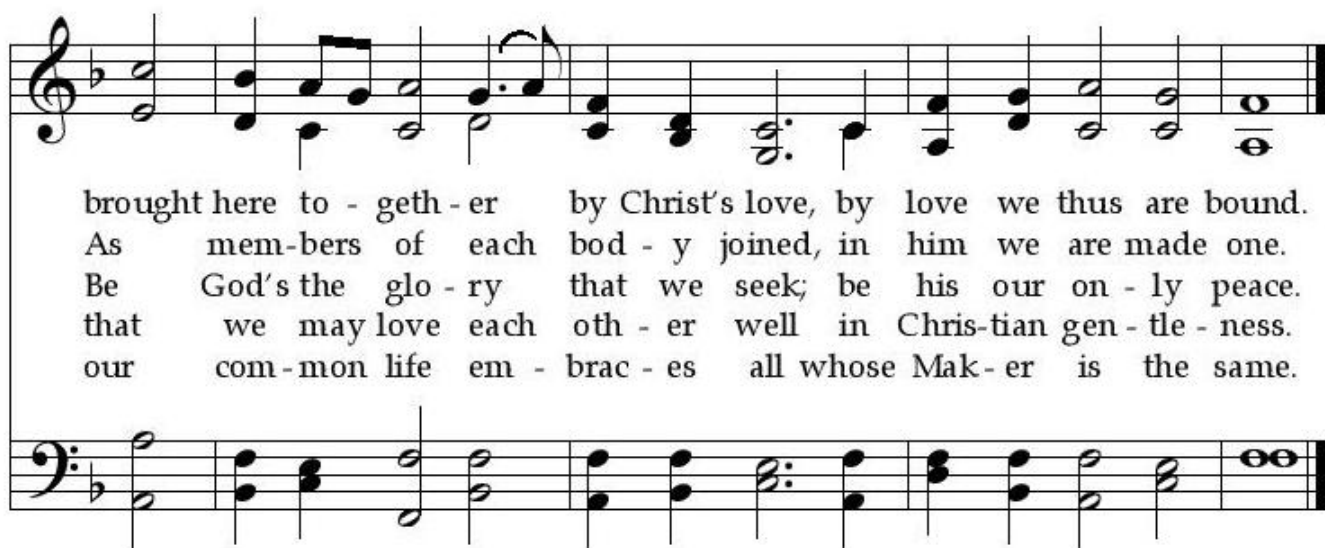
Flowers given by Jean Hunsicker in memory of her parents,
Theresa (Meneghetti) and Andrew Levari

*You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*

Where Charity and Love Prevail 316



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.
 3 Let strife a-mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
 4 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con - fess,
 5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.
 our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; trans. Omer Westendorf, 1960, alt.

MUSIC: Lucius Chapin, 1812

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TWENTY-FOURTH
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