



Service of Worship for the Lord's Day July 12, 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayers written by Kim Jaynes.

Gathering in God's Name

PRELUDE "All Creatures of Our God and King" Anna Laura Page

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come and worship, not out of mere habit or duty, and not to satisfy anyone else.

People: We come to put aside our everyday expectations and obligations. We come to connect with God and to join those who worship today and throughout the ages.

Pastor: God, we give you our focused attention. In this hour especially, we offer you our minds, our hearts, and our prayers.

HYMN #37 "Let All Things Now Living"

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Guide: God, we are the created and you are our creator. We have little power of our own, but as channels of your love, we can do anything. You are the source of everything good, and we live each minute by your mercy.

People: If you kept a list of our sins, if you counted up every selfish action or dishonest thought, none of us would make the cut. If you judged us based on our unsuccessful efforts to be good, there's no way we'd measure up. Our best will never be enough. We can't earn your forgiveness; we must confess our mistakes, then promise to walk in your way. In this silence, show us our faults and hear our confessions.

-- Silent Confessions --

Guide: Forgive us, Lord. We want to follow you. Send your Spirit to show us how to live for your kingdom, as individuals and as your people gathered here. As a sign of our commitment, we say together the prayer your Son taught us: ***"Our Father..." (debts/debtors) p. 35 in hymnal***

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

God never stops loving us. God's forgiveness has no limit because God doesn't keep score. If we

confess and ask for help, God is always willing to set us, again, on the right path.

CHORAL RESPONSE *(in unison)*

#582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Encountering God in the Word

ANTHEM "Do Lord" Susan Nelson Joyful Sounds Handbell Quintet

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: It's easier to praise you, Lord, than to follow you. We ask not just to be fed and enlightened by these words, but to be changed. May we be love, light, and hope in a world that desperately needs us to show what it means to be your disciples. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

EPHESIANS 2:3-21

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

6-7 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

11-12 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands) - remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14-16 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

17-18 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19-20 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

All: This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SERMON "The Folly of Religion" Rev. Wyn Bryant

Responding to God's Word

HYMN #395 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: When we're drowning in trouble, Lord, we pray. You promise to help us, and we believe you keep your promises. You hear us even when we can't speak, or don't know the right words to say.

People: We trust you, Lord. We're sick, frustrated, and scared. We're worried about a friend, family member, neighbor, or co-worker. We're anxious about what's happening in our country and in the world. Life is hard, and we realize we can't fix this on our own. Hear us, Lord. Answer us. Help us.

— *Silent prayers for others and ourselves. A candle is lit.* —

Pastor: Because we hope in you, we believe good things are coming even though we can't see them right now. We will wait for your answer, Lord. We will look to you when we're afraid or anxious. We will hold out for your help. Amen.

OFFERTORY "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" Wilbur Held

***OFFERING** (*in unison*) "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

***God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.***

DEDICATION (*unison*)

Father God, we thank you for your goodness. We thank you for creating, sustaining, and blessing us. We bring these gifts for your kingdom, and today we dedicate ourselves to your service. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #547 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Blessings and Sending

BENEDICTION Rev. Wyn Bryant

DOXOLOGY (*in unison*) #606

***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.***

POSTLUDE "Praise the Lord" Michael Burkhardt

Daily Bible Readings are below...

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

In the beginning, God created the world and called it "good." Yet so much of what we see in the world does not live up to our expectations of "goodness." How do we make sense of a world where good things are promised, and yet injustice and suffering persist?

MONDAY Psalm 92

TUESDAY Ephesians 4:17-5:2

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 11:23-30

THURSDAY Hebrews 2:1-9

FRIDAY Matthew 7:15-20

SATURDAY Isaiah 44:1-8

SUNDAY Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43