

Sunday Worship Service – August 31, 2025

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Usher usually lights altar candles prior to service starting

Words of Welcome

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the themes of the Bible readings

The Bible readings today focus on humility, hospitality and servanthood. God's church is called to live out these values as we continue to strive to be a faith community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and included.

Confession & Forgiveness*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you free us to love others,**
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

We belong to Christ Jesus and we are all God's children.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
our sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, we are a new creation. **Amen.**

#522 Gathering Hymn "As We Gather at Your Table"

1. **As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make love's vict'ry known.**
2. **Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.**

**Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

- 3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Call to Worship¹

You have come to a community of love and hospitality.

Here God calls us to see strangers as angels in disguise.

You have come to a community of worship.

Here praising God is more important than thinking highly of ourselves.

Here, you are God's honoured guest.

Prayer of the Day²

God of hospitality, **here we are before you, because you have called us here
to a life and attitude of worship. We thank you for your call to be part of
your family and part of this community. May we be eager to extend the
same welcome, and the same hospitality, to others in your name. Amen.**

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

A reading from Proverbs 25:

Don't exalt yourself in the presence of the ruler, or stand in the place of important people, because it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," than to be demoted before a ruler.

¹ Abingdon Worship Annual 2016

² Ibid

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

A reading from **Hebrews**, chapter 13:

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. This is why we can confidently say,

The Lord is my helper, and I won't be afraid.

What can people do to me?

Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.188 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14

In the gospel from Luke, Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather

than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely. When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. "When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don't take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give your seat to this other person.' Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, 'Friend, move up here to a better seat.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up."

Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, "When you host a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can't repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

#708 Hymn of the Day "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.**

Refrain

2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away.

Refrain

3. These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Refrain

4. Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet;
this is the way we will live with you.

Apostles' Creed (*inside back cover of hymn book*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession*

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God,
for God is near. Prayer petitions will end with "God of grace" and the
congregation is invited to respond by saying: **"receive our prayer."**

A brief silence.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who
labour in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and
pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for
their sustenance. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray.
Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labour Day

weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labour often goes unnoticed.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For all teachers, administrators and education assistants as they preaper for another year of school. Bless their preparations and may students return to school eager to learn. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. We especially pray for those in hospital, those who are grieving, and those who struggle with their mental health.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us, especially those who set up communion, those who organize the hospitality ministry of funeral lunches and those who provide refreshments for fellowship opportunities after church.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering and Offering Prayer*

Creator God, **in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

p.190 Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you.

As you gave our ancestors in faith food and water in the desert,
even when they turned away from you,
you have promised to free us from all divisions and to give us eternal life.
And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.190 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and holy is Jesus, your anointed one,
who invites us to place our trust in you, rather than in earthly treasures.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
May they remind us that we are one in Christ,
no longer divided by race or country or any other earthly sign.
For all these gifts, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
 Amen.**

Communion *(for online worshippers)*

Communion Distribution

p.191 ***Lamb of God***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion*

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing³

Go from this place,
 filled with the spiritual sustenance of God, your creator.
 Go from this place,
 filled with the feast Christ shares with all disciples.
 Go from this place,
 led by the Holy Spirit to share this feast with all. Amen.

#547 Sending Hymn “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,

³ *Abingdon Worship Annual 2019*

the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended

the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God everliving,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face –
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) adapted for inclusive language.

Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (*) are adapted from:

<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2025-8-24/0#texts>