



Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we say that you are the Lord  
but then we live our lives as though you have no power.  
We too easily bow before the powers and authorities of this world.  
We lack the imagination to envision a world governed by your love.  
Deliver us, O God, from our limited perception.  
Capture the imaginations of our hearts and the work of our hands.  
Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Anthem

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” . . . . . Anonymous  
*Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.  
Let your softness be known unto all men; the Lord is even at hand.  
Be careful for nothing, but in all prayer and supplication,  
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 96 . . . . . Old Testament, page 520

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 22:15–22, 24–40 . . . . . New Testament, page 23

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Gratitude and Responsibility” . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 697 . . . . . “Take My Life”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love, God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God’s commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God’s condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

### Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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.

### Prayer Response

“Amen” . . . . . John W. W. Sherer

### Offering

### Offertory Anthem

“O God, Thou Art My God” . . . . . Henry Purcell

*O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee. My soul thirsteth for thee,  
my flesh longeth after thee in a barren and dry land where no water is.  
Thus have I looked for thee in holiness, that I might behold thy power and glory.  
For thy loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall praise thee.  
As long as I live will I magnify thee on this manner and lift up my hands  
in thy name. Because thou hast been my helper, therefore under the shadow  
of thy wings will I rejoice. Hallelujah.*

\*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,  
 with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:  
 here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.  
 Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

\*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

O Lord, we know that we are entrusted by you  
 with all that we have and possess.  
 We humbly offer to you these gifts and ask for your blessing  
 as we seek to faithfully give back to you  
 what has always belonged to you.  
 May our gifts be used for your work of mercy and justice. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 716 ..... “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Phoenix ..... Dan Locklair

## Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God's activity. When it is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship.

That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6 (page 597 of the Old Testament): adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. Overwhelmed by God's majesty and glory, we **gather together in praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**. We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles' Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus' instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord's Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God's mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God's work all around us.

## Worship Leaders

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9:30 Judith L. Watt, Jeff Weber, Jeff Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Judith L. Watt, Dave Miller, Jeff Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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The Morning Choir

The Handbell Choir; the Drum Circle

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

John Doty, Director of the Drum Circle

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Jean Joslyn and Roger Wilson on behalf of Stephen Ministry.

AS WE MARK THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION this autumn, we continue our seven-part "Always Reforming" sermon series. Each week we are also affirming our faith by using different creeds and statements of faith from the Reformed tradition. Today's affirmation is from A Brief Statement of Faith.

THE BULLETIN COVER quote was the inscription on the personal seal of Protestant theologian and reformer John Calvin (1509–1564).

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is based on Psalm 96. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *The Abingdon Women's Preaching Annual*. The words to "For the Life that You Have Given" are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *The Abingdon Preaching Annual, 2017*.

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**Victoria G. Curtiss** Associate Pastor for Mission

**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor  
for Children and Family Ministry

**Rocky Supinger** Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

**Judith L. Watt** Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

**Nanette Sawyer** Minister for Congregational Life

**Alex Wirth** Minister for Evangelism

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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