

ORDER OF WORSHIP AUGUST 23, 2026

WELCOME

Pastor Kelli

PRELUDE

Dr. Daniel Cummings

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Abbey Reed

Friends, please rise to your feet, or rise in your heart, as we offer our Call to Worship before God.

Come, people of God, for our loving God welcomes us with open arms.

We come trusting in God's grace and mercy.

Whether we have wandered far or stayed close by,

God's love invites each of us to the table.

In Christ, we are welcomed, forgiven, and made new.

We come to worship with grateful hearts and joyful spirits.

Let us celebrate the God whose love never gives up on us.

We rejoice in God's amazing grace. Amen.

Please remaining standing for our Gathering Hymn,

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

UMH 529

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

George

Meinecke

You may be seated [pause for folx to settle.]

Friends, please join me as we pray together our prayer for transformation and new life.

God of grace and mercy, thank you for loving us with open arms. Forgive us when we wander from your ways or when we fail to celebrate your grace in the lives of others. Soften our hearts, renew our minds, and help us trust in your unfailing love. Fill us with joy, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

George

Meinecke

Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: God's love never gives up on us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, welcomed with joy, and embraced by grace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

George Meinecke

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us exchange signs of Christ's peace with one another.

***HYMN** Lead Me, Guide Me TFWS 2214

***SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Abbey Reed

Please remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

Today's Scripture Lesson is the parable of The Prodigal Son in the Gospel of Luke, chapter fifteen, verses eleven through thirty-two, from The Message.

One: Listen for the Word of God.

All: Our ears are open.

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹⁻¹² Then he said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

¹²⁻¹⁶ "So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ "That brought him to his senses. He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got right up and went home to his father.

²⁰⁻²¹ "When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: 'Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again.'

²²⁻²⁴ "But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!' And they began to have a wonderful time.

²⁵⁻²⁷ "All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day's work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him,

‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

²⁸⁻³⁰ “The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

³¹⁻³² “His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

One: Friends, this is the Word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

You may be seated.

(11:00) ANTHEM

I Sought the Lord

Karen Marroli

Drop-In

Choir

SERMON

Parables of Jesus: The Prodigal Son

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

Amazing Grace (vs 1, 2, 3, 4)

UMH 378

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Abbey Reed

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Abbey Reed

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Abbey Reed

God has blessed us in many ways. As an act of gratitude and faith, we now return a portion of those blessings, trusting that our gifts will help share Christ's love, care for our neighbors, and build God's beloved community. Let us give with generous hearts.

OFFERTORY How Can I Keep From Singing arr. Fedak
 Marshal Hollingsworth, baritone

***DOXOLOGY** Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow UMH
 94

HOLY COMMUNION UMH 17

Invitation to the Table

Pastor Kelli

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
 always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
 Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

From the beginning, you have called your people *George Meincke*
 to walk in your ways of love and grace.
 When we wandered, you welcomed us home.
 When we turned away, you remained faithful, always inviting us into the joy of
 your kingdom.

And so, with your people on earth
 and all the company of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
 Jesus taught with stories that revealed your kingdom,
 welcomed all who would come,
 and called people to lives of grace and love.
 Through his life, death, and resurrection, you overcame sin and death
 and opened the way to abundant and everlasting life.

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us,
Abbey Reed

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
 gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
 "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
 poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
 as a holy and living sacrifice,
 in union with Christ's offering for us,
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died;
 Christ is risen;
 Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
Pastor Kelli

and on these gifts of bread and cup.
 Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
 that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
 redeemed by his love and sent by his grace.

Open our eyes to see our neighbors.
 Open our hearts to receive your grace.
 Open our hands to share your generosity.
 Teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven,
 to welcome as we have been welcomed,
 and to rejoice whenever your love changes a life.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ, with one another,
 and with all your people in every time and place,
 until we gather at your heavenly banquet,
 where every tear is wiped away,
 every outcast is welcomed home,
 and your kingdom comes in all its fullness.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Invitation to the Table

Pastor Kelli

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Dr. Daniel Cummings, piano

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Abbey Reed

***SENDING HYMN**

Lord of All Hopefulness

TFWS 2197

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

People of God, hear the good news: Christ has opened your eyes to see your neighbors, your heart to receive God's grace, and your hands to share God's love.

May God, the giver of every good gift, make you a blessing to others.

May Jesus Christ lead you in the way of compassion and mercy.

And may the Holy Spirit open your eyes to those who are hurting and fill you with the courage to love your neighbors.

We go in peace to love and serve our neighbors, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit—one God, the Mother of us all. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Dr. Daniel Cummings