



SPIRITUAL, NOT RELIGIOUS
THE ESSENCE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

A Service of Song, Word, & Table
August 17, 2025

* Please rise in body or spirit.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Dr. Dan Cummings

OPENING MEDITATION

A WAY OF PRAYER SOURCE: Gullah Language, Lowcountry South Carolina

We Fada wa dey een heaben
Leh ebrybody hona ya nyame
We pray dat soon ya gwine rule oba de wol.
Wasoneba ting ya wahn,
Leh um be so een dis wol
Same like dey een heaben.
Gii we de food wa we need
Dis day yah an ebry day.
Fagibe we fa we sin
Same lik we da fagibe dem people
Wa do bad ta we.
Leh we dihn hab haad test
Wen Satan try we
Keep we from ebil.

HYMN A Mighty Fortress is Our God UMH 110

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES Hebrews 11:29-12:2

This is the Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson Summer Choir

HOMILY “Be Made Perfect”

MUSICAL RESPONSE Lead Me, Lord UMH 473

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECEPTION OF PARDON

Being human, we never find it easy to ask for forgiveness. But as God's children, called to live in relationship with one another, we know we must speak of how we have hurt others, so we might be forgiven and restored to new life. Please join me as we pray to God, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

What more can we say, Expectant God, that you don't know already? You long for justice for all people, but it is washed away by the flood of violence in our world. You hope that righteousness will walk with us, but you hear the clear cries of those we mistreat. You ask us to speak up for those in need, but we shut our mouths and turn away.

Forgive us, Righteous God. Have mercy when we do not bear the fruit we could. Even though we have not lived our faith to the fullest, may we receive the promises of hope and grace you have given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Shhh, listen! Can you hear them? The saints of heaven - those who have gone on before us - are cheering us on as we run towards the finish line of our faith.

Thanks be to God! The victory has already been won for us in Jesus Christ. We are forgiven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

REGATHERING HYMN Lead Me, Guide Me TFWS 2214

INVITATION TO OFFERING & CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

As you share your blessings with us, Gracious God, you show great faith that we will use them wisely and offer them generously to others. So, by faith, may our gifts bring healing to the broken, hope to the despairing, and laughter to those who mourn. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERTORY Dr. Dan Cummings, piano

* DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One whose heart is broken for us.

Offer your praises and joy to the God who is our Creator.

We sing our love-songs to the One who loves us and watches over us.

It is our greatest joy
to offer our thanks and praise to you,
God of all time.

At the dawn of creation,
you sang your love-song:
 covering mountains with cooling shade,
 directing the clouds to pour rain
 upon the cedar seedlings,
 filling your garden of grace
 with all the goodness we would need.

But longing for a view
of temptation's delights,
we chopped down the hedges
surrounding Eden and protecting us,
 and we were devoured
 by sin and death.

You sent the prophets
to tend and nurture us,

pruning us so we could bear
the fruit of justice and righteousness.
You took pity on us
as we weakened ourselves by our pride,
and placed your hand upon Jesus
sending him to be strong for us.

Therefore, we lift our thanksgiving to you,
joining our voices with the witnesses of every age,
echoing their glad songs of praise,
offering our hope to you:

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

Holy are you, Shepherd of all people,
and blessed is Jesus Christ,
your sign of hope and grace.
Surrounded by all the faithful,
 he humbled himself,
 coming to set the pace for us
 in this race we call life.
Worthy of all glory and praise,
 he disregarded human acclaim,
 and died on the cross
 that we might be given life.
Picking up sin and death,
and tossing them aside,
 he cleared the way to you,
 that we might enter your kingdom.

As we remember his death and resurrection,
as we look for signs of his life in our time,
we receive that mystery of faith
which is promised to us:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit
upon the gifts of the bread and cup,
and upon those who, by faith,
come to your Table.
As we receive these signs
of a grace we cannot see,
 may we be transformed
 into signs of peace and hope
 for our time.
As we taste the broken Bread,
 may we draw strength
 to serve a shattered world.
As we drink of the gift of grace,
 may we become robust
 in our giving to others.
As we open our hands to you,
 may we go to hand out justice
 to the lost, the little, the least.

Then, when we are no longer divided,
but all people are gathered
around the Feast of the Lamb,
we will never turn away from you,
but will sing our songs of love
to you through all eternity,
God in Community, Holy in One,
forever and ever.

Traditional Lord's Prayer

**Amen, amen, amen.
Hosanna in the highest! (3x)**

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Dr. Dan Cummings, piano

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

* BENEDICTION

In faith, we have worshiped the God of all grace and hope.

By faith, we will go to be poured out for all around us.

Through faith, we have come to follow the Servant of the poor.

**With faith, we will go with our companions,
justice and righteousness, to serve the oppressed.**

By faith, we learn the songs of the Spirit of love.

**In faith, we will sing these songs with those
for whom the music has gone silent.**

POSTLUDE

Dr. Dan Cummings