

If, then, you agree and give heed, you will eat the good things of the earth; but if you refuse and disobey, you will be devoured [by] the sword,” for it was GOD who spoke.

**HYMN**                      **“O GOD OF EVERY NATION”**                      **#435**

1. O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;  
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.
2. From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,  
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.
3. Lord, strengthen all who labor that all may find release  
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.
4. Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,  
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD** [A period of silence follows each intercession.]

We pray for your world, wounded and scarred: heal earth's body, and lead us to care.  
We pray for your church, divided and angry: unite us in mission, and grow us in love.  
We pray for the lost, the forgotten, the lonely: gather them in, and show us how to love.  
We pray for the addicted: save them and strengthen them.  
We pray for those who have no hope: give them faith in you.



*September 7, 2025*  
*Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost*

A decorative horizontal border featuring a repeating pattern of stylized leaves and small flowers, rendered in a light gray color.

“If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn’t finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. They will say, ‘Here’s the person who began construction and couldn’t complete it!’ Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? And if he didn’t think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, be reshaped and recreated by the hands of the Potter. Come, be your true self, wonderfully made by God. Come, that you may hear the Spirit calling.

*Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 196). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

All-knowing God, we gather together with praise and thanksgiving for who You are, and for all that You have done for us.

You know us better than we know ourselves – all our thoughts and actions – and yet You love us.

No matter where we go or what we do, your love encircles us – ahead and behind – gently leading and guiding and blessing.

We praise You for Your love and Your faithful presence in our lives.

May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together – examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with Your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life.

For we are Your people, called by Your name. Amen.

*Posted on the re: Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/opening-prayer-psalm-139.html>*

HYMN

“Womb of Life”

#2046

1. Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,  
in your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.  
We, your children, gather ‘round you, at the table you prepare.  
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.
2. Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,  
You have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.  
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life and Death of Death,  
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.

3. Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.  
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.  
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,  
free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.
4. Mother, Brother, Holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
we would praise your name forever, One in three, and Three in one.  
We would share your life, your passion,  
share your word of world made new,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trusting in the power of God not only to fashion the world, but to mend and refashion our hearts, let us say how it is with us.

**Holy God, like children long indulged, we are quick to presume your pardon, your sanction of the way we live. We turn away from neighbors in need, sharing fragments that remain only after our cravings have been met.**

**Merciful Maker, you created us for better use; remake us now. Where we are distorted re-center and reshape us, bring us low and raise us up. Then fire our hearts until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose.**

[Silent Prayer]

Hear the sound of love poured out: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.

Sisters and brothers, in the name of the Christ I declare that your story is known, your sin is forgiven, your life is made new. Let us live as those reborn.

*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press*

ANTHEM

“FEED US LORD”

CHANCEL CHOIR

EPISTLE READING

PHILEMON 1-21 [CEB]

From Paul, who is a prisoner for the cause of Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy.  
To Philemon our dearly loved coworker, Apphia our sister, Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church that meets in your house.  
May the grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
Philemon, I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers because I’ve heard of your love and faithfulness, which you have both for the Lord Jesus and for all God’s people. I pray that your partnership in the faith might become effective by an understanding of all that is good among us in Christ. I have great joy and encouragement because of your love, since the hearts of God’s people are refreshed by your actions, my brother.

Yes, brother, I want this favor from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. I'm writing to you, confident of your obedience and knowing that you will do more than what I ask.

**LESSON                      “WELCOME ONE”                      REV. NED ALDERMAN**

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

This is a feast provided by the God who led our ancestors in faith out of Egypt, who fed them in the wilderness with manna, and who quenched their thirst with water from rock.

This feast is sustenance from the same creator who led God’s people safely through a barren land that no one passes through.

This is a feast from the very God who delivers us from our own times of deep darkness.

Listen and be fed.

Listen and be satisfied.

This is a feast celebrated by Jesus the Christ with his disciples – a feast that is now shared with us. For Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

This feast is offered freely to all. Share this feast with one another. Share this feast with strangers.

Humble yourself, and be exalted through this spiritual feast. Let mutual love continue.

**Amen.**

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, 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 God, 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, and on these gifts of bread and the 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 blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

*Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 193-194). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

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## THE LORD'S PRAYER (singing)

**Leader: Our Father**

## People: Our Father

**Leader: In Heaven**

## People: In Heaven

**Leader: Holy is Your name.**

**People: Holy is Your name.**

**Leader:** Your kingdom come,

**People: Your kingdom come,**

**Leader:** Your will be done,

**People: Your will be done,**

**Leader:** On earth,

**People: On earth,**

**Leader: As in heaven.**

**People:** As in heaven.

**Leader: Give us today,**

**People:** Give us today,

**Leader: Our daily bread.**

**People: Our daily bread.**

**Leader:** And forgive those,  
**People:** And forgive those,  
**Leader:** Who sin against us.  
**People:** Who sin against us.  
**Leader:** Save us from the time,  
**People:** Save us from the time,  
**Leader:** Of trials.  
**People:** Of trials.  
**Leader:** And deliver us,  
**People:** And deliver us,  
**Leader:** From evil.  
**People:** From evil.  
**Leader:** For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.  
**People:** For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.  
**Leader:** Forever,  
**People:** Forever.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Jesus says if we would learn from him, we must follow him. Large crowds listened to Jesus, but they turned away when they realized the cost.  
Jesus said, “None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all of your possessions.” Therefore, be generous with the fruit of your life and labor on behalf of the good we are called to do for Christ.

*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Tender and knowing God, you have searched us and known us – every thought, every fear, every hope that stirs within. You wove us together with care, claiming us before we could speak your name. Receive these gifts, offered not from perfection but from hearts seeking you. Use them to shape a world more reflective of your love and shape us, too, into a people more open, more generous, more faithful. May our giving become a response to your knowing and our generosity a reflection of your grace. In the name of the one who knows us still. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY**

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.

**HYMN “WOULD I HAVE ANSWERED WHEN YOU CALLED” TFWS #2137**

1. Would I have answered when you called, “Come, follow, follow me!”?  
Would I at once have left behind both work and family?

- Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim  
And kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?
2. Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee,  
On roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?  
Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,  
Where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?
3. Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, “Crucify!”  
When on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?  
Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone,  
A dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?
4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,  
Nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.  
I only pray that when you call, “Come, follow, follow me!”  
You’ll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

**BENEDICTION**

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.

*Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 194). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.*

**POSTLUDE “HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE THEE” DANA MOODY**

*Today's service is being broadcast on Facebook Live at 11:00 am. You can access the service through the Oaklette Church Group on Facebook. You can also access the sermon through the Oaklette UMC Facebook page. If you are unable to use Facebook Live a link can be sent to you by email after the Facebook Live Worship has been recorded, but we will need your email address to do this. The Facebook Live service will also be downloaded to our website on Monday morning.*

*The flowers on the altar today are presented to the glory of God.  
The Food Basket on the altar is presented to the glory of God.*



**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

**Members of the Church**

**Prayer Partner: Brenda Swoope**

**Lay Reader – Debbie Rippard**

**Audio-Visual Operator – Danny Castellow**

**Facebook Live Recorder: Bright Tsevi**

**Greeter: Joanne Rooks**

**Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman**

**Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance**

**Financial Secretary: Edna Bess**

**Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Beth Givens**

**Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson**