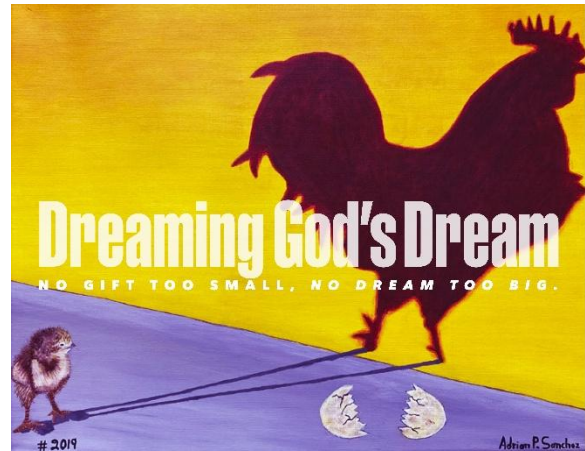


Twenty-second
Sunday after
Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday
November 9, 2025



We Gather in Response to God's Invitation

THE GIFT OF MUSIC TO GATHER US

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Written by Rev. Nelson Cowan, <https://resistharm.com/worship/liturgical-greetings>.

One: Hear these words of invitation:

Welcome to the joyful—may you be able to share that joy here.

Welcome to the tired and weary—may you find rest here.

Welcome to the lonely—may you find community here.

Welcome to the sick—may you find healing here.

Welcome to those who mourn—may you find comfort here.

Welcome to the foreigner, to the stranger, to the refugee—may you find safety here.

Welcome to every nation, every race, every sexual orientation, every gender identity—may you find hospitality here.

The God who delights in all of creation is in our midst!

All: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

**An asterisk indicates when the people stand in body or spirit.*

One: Come and join in the feast of the Lord.

All: **We are hungry.**

Come and join in the miracles of the Lord.

We are doubtful.

Come and join in the community of the Lord.

We are ready to face our fears to participate in God's miracles. Amen.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

***OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)**

God of our hopes and dreams, we are empty, and long to be filled; we are hungry, and long to be fed; we are lost, and long to be found. Gather us into your love, and pick up the pieces of our lives, just as Jesus gathered up the fragments of the five loaves and two fish that remained after feeding the five thousand. Call us anew to eat our fill and to find our true nourishment in Jesus, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

***SINGING TOGETHER**

“Gather Up the Scattered Fragments”

Tune: HOLY MANNA

Carl P. Daw, Jr. Copyright © 2006 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI Song 5002445.

**Gather up the scattered fragments,
so that nothing may be lost,"
Jesus charged the twelve disciples,
as they each with basket crossed
up and down the grassy hillsides
where the multitude was fed,
till each basket brimmed to fullness
with the still-remaining bread.**

**Frugal is our God's abundance:
blessings we neglect or shirk
still retain the power to nourish
if we only let them work.
More provisions yet await us
than our dreaming comprehends,
but we fail to claim the promise
of the good that God intends.**

**Give us, God, the grace to hunger
for the feast that does not fade,
for the water fresh and living,
for the bread no hands have made.
Help us claim and share your giving
as the pattern for our own,
till all people grasp your goodness
and your saving power is known.**

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

We Pray for Transformation and New Life

INTRODUCTION

Every gift matters. In today's scripture, it was one small gift of a child that inspired a miracle. We forget that every gift matters. We forget what God can do with small gifts.

Let us draw near to God, so that we can remember.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION (TOGETHER)

We come believing in our emptiness, believing that we will never have enough, believing that what we have is unworthy.

We come fearful of sharing, fearful of losing our tenuous grip on security, fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others.

We come overwhelmed by the hunger, overwhelmed by the suffering of children near and far, overwhelmed by the endless tales of senseless violence, greed, and death.

We come aching from the weight of the responsibility, aching from the chilling challenge of knowing our abundance, aching from the gnawing awareness that we have much to share.

We come clinging to our meager lunches; bless them, and us; break them, and us; share them, and us.

Written by Katherine Hawker, on Liturgy Outside. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

Silent reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God did not rest until the generosity and abundance were felt by all. God will not rest until we are all redeemed, restored and fulfilled. Be assured of God's miraculous love and grace. Amen.

THE PEACE

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

As a sign of our deep fellowship and communion with God and with one another, let us personally greet one another with a handshake or peace sign and bless one another with the peace that comes from being in Christ.

*REGATHERING SONG:

"Jesu, Jesu" Black #498 chorus (x2)

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

We Hear God's Word

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

"Celtic Amazing Grace"

arr. Ware

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, when all the people gathered to hear Jesus, they each had different gifts and different needs. Jesus inspired them all to be generous. Jesus made sure they all received what they needed. We have also gathered with different gifts and different needs. Enliven us with your Word today, so that we each feel at the same time fulfilled and challenged. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING:

PSALM 145:10-18

Praise for God's for God's faithfulness, caring and justice.

¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,

¹²to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

LETTER OR EPISTLE READING:

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

God works within us to do far more than we can ask or imagine.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING:

JOHN 6:1-21 (THE MESSAGE)

Bread and fish for all. Please join in reading the bolded text. Hear the Good News!

¹⁻⁴ After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

⁵⁻⁶ When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread to feed these people?” He said this to stretch Philip’s faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered,

“Two hundred silver pieces wouldn’t be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece.”

⁸⁻⁹ One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said,

“There’s a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that’s a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this.”

¹⁰⁻¹¹ Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

¹²⁻¹³ When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted.” They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said,

“This is the Prophet for sure, God’s Prophet right here in Galilee!”

Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself.

¹⁶⁻²¹ In the evening his disciples went down to the sea, got in the boat, and headed back across the water to Capernaum. It had grown quite dark and Jesus had not yet returned. A huge wind blew up, churning the sea. They were maybe three or four miles out when they saw Jesus walking on the sea, quite near the boat. They were scared senseless, but he reassured them, “It’s me. It’s all right. Don’t be afraid.” So they took him on board. In no time they reached land—the exact spot they were headed to.

RESPONSE TO THE READING

God brings us together in the word.

We are grateful to be part of God’s story.

God brings us together in stewardship.

We are grateful to be part of God’s community.

God brings us together in a vision for the future.

We are grateful to be part of God’s dream. Amen.

MEDITATION:

“Little is Much When God Is in It”

Pastor Dave

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

SINGING TOGETHER:

“Break Now the Bread of Life” Black #321

**Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me,
as you once broke the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

**Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
as you once blessed the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

We Respond to God’s Word

A TIME FOR COMMUNAL PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

You are invited to share joys and concerns we can pray for together. Let our sharing itself be an act of prayer.

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.**

MISSION MOMENT

Bell Socialization

Pat Joseph

GROUP ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You are invited to place your gifts in the offering basket as you arrive or depart from our worship together.

There were many small miracles in the large miracle of feeding five thousand people. One of those small miracles was the generosity of the first child to offer their loaves and fish. They shared what they had so that others might have enough. One small gift, one big miracle. When we share our gifts, we inspire others to do the same, and we become part of God’s dream to make sure all are fed.

DEDICATING OUR OFFERING (TOGETHER)

Gracious God, you have performed miracles and set a table before us. You have brought us together into one community, making sure we have enough. Today, we offer these gifts as our commitment to work and dream with you. We pray that you can use them to realize your dream in which all are known, all are loved, and all fed. In your name we pray, Amen.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

We Go Out to Serve

*SINGING TOGETHER

“We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed”

Black #540 v. 1-4, 6

**We plant a grain of mustard seed, and in our faith we find
the proof of God is love, indeed, which blossoms from its kind;
the proof of God is love, indeed, which blossoms from its kind.**

**Our actions, more than words, define how love’s example feeds
a greater love, for love divine bursts forth from smallest seeds;
a greater love, for love divine bursts forth from smallest seeds.**

**When stooped to lend a helping hand, we find a touch that heals,
for love invested will expand to bear the fruit love yields;
for love invested will expand to bear the fruit love yields.**

**Make love our purpose, love our aim, for love endures all things,
and choosing love our lives will claim the peace forgiveness brings;
and choosing love our lives will claim the peace forgiveness brings.**

**Our lives will be fulfilled and blessed if through the seeds we’ve sown
and by the love that we profess the love of Christ is known;
and by the love that we profess the love of Christ is known.**

GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH

Let this worship be a small gift to you that gets multiplied out into the world. Share the love you have received here today and watch as God expands it. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Deep Within Our Hearts”

Sing! #124 (*repeat*)

**There’s a song deep within our hearts
There’s a light burning in our souls
And a path in the darkness lit from above
God help us sing your song, Spirit to shine your light,
Jesus to live your love.**

DISMISSAL

Go in joy to love and serve our God and our neighbors with humility.

Thanks be to God.

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Adapted from a liturgy by Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth in the UCC’s Dreaming God’s Dream Campaign Resources.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!