



August 23, 2026
Service at 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Mike McCallum

Welcome to Worship

Bold: Congregation Responds | **An asterisk (*)** indicates points of the service where the Congregation stands in body or spirit.

Please complete the “Connection” card and place it in the offering plate to assist in keeping your information up-to-date.

Today's Ushers: Pam Ephgrave; Con Schliinz; Ken & Rebecca Schliinz

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHERING

Prelude arr. A. Hovhaness, “The Prayer of St. Gregory”
Dr. Rolf Olson, Trumpet
Dan Graber, Organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Mike McCallum

*** Call to Worship**

L: You have called us to this place, O Lord.

C: Each one of us is unique, with differing gifts and talents.

L: Yet each talent represented here is valuable in God's realm.

C: Lord, help us find ways in which to use our talents for healing and hope.

L: Come, let us praise the Lord who has called us here.

*** Opening Hymn** #321 "The Church's One Foundation"

AURELIA

PREPARING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

* Prayer of Confession

It is so easy for us, Lord, to diminish the gifts you have given us. We have come to believe that either we are experts in some areas or we know nothing. Each of us has been given special talents and gifts that can be used to help others, but for some reason we have chosen not to use these gifts, deciding that they are unimportant or not needed. Forgive us when we make decisions not to act. Help us look at the blessings that you have poured into our lives and to discover the special talents that we have. Open the doorways of service and let the gates swing wide on the “grease of grace,” that we may go forth to serve you in this world. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

* Response to Forgiveness #584 “Glory, Glory, Glory”

CUEQUITA

Special Music arr. J. Carter, “The Old Rugged Cross”

Dr. Rolf Olson, Trumpet
Dan Graber, Piano

RECEIVING GOD’S WORD ANEW

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings Matthew 16: 13–20 Jason Douma

Back to School Blessings Kathie Douma

Kindergarten Prayer Pillows: Louis Jacobs & Talia Reiter

Backpack Blessing

May these tags remind you that God is always with you.

As you sit and as you stand, as you learn and as you play, in every fear and every celebration, may you know God, your friend, is always there.

Prayer

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become. God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all. Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes. However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new. Amen

Sermon

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Good Good Father”

Praise Band

Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

* Confession of Faith: Adapted Westminster Confession of Faith

We believe that God alone is Lord,
infinite in power, wisdom, and goodness,
the Creator and Governor of all.

All glory and honor belong to God forever. Amen.

Praise Band

Benediction

Postlude

Dan Graber, Piano

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