



Sunday, September 6, 2026

Sunday
Virtual Worship

SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”* arr. R. R. Perry

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen! The Lord calls out to us, offering life!

People: Teach us, lead us, and turn us to your ways, O God.

Leader: Let us walk in the paths of God’s commandments with delight.

People: Teach us, lead us, and turn us to your ways, O God.

With our whole heart, we will turn to you and live.

***HYMN 478** *“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”*

PRAYER of the DAY (In unison)

Holy and gracious Lord, our God, direct and help us in all our deeds, so that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

CALL to CONFESSION

Though called and claimed by God by the seal of the Spirit and the waters of baptism, we live weighed down by the brokenness of sin, and struggle to live in joy and freedom. When we turn and return to the God who loves us, God finds pleasure, and extends mercies unending. We turn now, confessing our sins against God and neighbor.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (In unison)

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us and free us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

SINGING 572 *“Lord, Have Mercy upon Us”*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

***SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Nearer My God to Thee”

Robert Hughes

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (In unison)

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people, opening our minds to increase understanding, and opening our hearts to bind us together in love. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 13:8-14 and Matthew 18:1-20

SERMON

“May I Have a Word?”

Rev. Myles Thompson

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (The Apostles’ Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life ever-lasting. Amen.

***HYMN 504**

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

INVITATION to OFFERING

Let us be glad in our Maker and rejoice in our King. Let us praise God’s name with the music of our whole lives. Let us bring to God our tithes and offerings as an expression of faith and gratitude for the gifts we have received.

(Those joining us online may use our online giving platform at hocpc.org/give)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

*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.*

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three gather in his name, be among us now, that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the TABLE

THE PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Through long generations you have been faithful to your people. Therefore, we join our voices with all those who sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power, God of might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS of INSTITUTION and BREAKING of the BREAD

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup, giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ and offering ourselves to live for him in joy and grateful praise. Great is the mystery of faith:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

***HYMN 442**

"The Church's One Foundation"

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

*SONG of SENDING

*God be with you til we meet again,
Loving councils guide uphold you
with the Shepherd's care enfold you.
God be with you til we meet again.
Til we meet, til we meet, til we meet at Jesus' feet
Til we meet, til we meet, til we meet
God be with you til we meet again.*

POSTLUDE

"Festive Voluntary"

Robert Lau

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Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off^f the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.



Matthew 18:1-20

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² He called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶ “If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! ⁸ “If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰ “Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Romans 13:8-10



Love sincerely.



Hate what is wrong. Hold tight to what is **good**.



Love one another deeply from the heart.



Honor others above yourselves.



Never repay evil with evil. Do **good** to one another



Love is the fulfillment of God's law.