



Order of Worship

6th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

Call to worship

We gather to celebrate the God of wonder and majesty!

Awesome God, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

We gather to celebrate Jesus Christ, who was dead and buried, and now risen indeed!

Jesus, renew our hope in your great power and love.

We gather to celebrate the Holy Spirit, our promised comforter and guide!

Come Holy Spirit! Fill us with your presence and peace.

We gather to celebrate the ancient hope of Christians:

God is with us and will never let us go.

Call to confession (Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16)

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of confession

Ever-present God, we come before you knowing we have ignored your promised Holy Spirit living within us. Therefore, we forfeit peace and bear needless worry. We become confused and deaf to your voice of truth. We struggle with obedience to your Word and fight an overwhelming sense of loneliness. Forgive us! Help us to remember that we are never alone, that you are with us and for us, by the power of your Spirit abiding in us, the Spirit of Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (Romans 8:31-32)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.





Prayer for illumination

Come Holy Spirit! As the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed, bear witness to the truth in our hearts and minds, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from The PC(USA) Study Catechism)

Question 54: What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

Apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served. The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself, the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ's service. As the work of the one Holy Spirit, our love, knowledge, and service of Christ are all inseparably related.

Question 55: How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

By receiving the Word of God. As the midwife of the new creation, the Spirit arrives with the Word, brings us to rebirth, and assures us of eternal life. The Spirit nurtures, corrects, and strengthens us with the pure spiritual milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2).

Call for the offering

In great gratitude to God that we are never left to our own devices, let us give joyfully and generously for God's work in the world.

Prayer of dedication

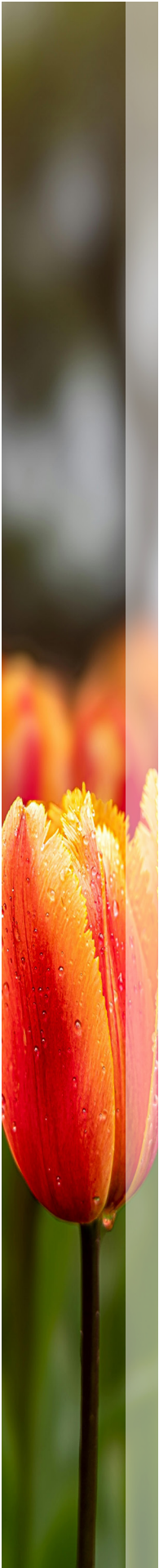
O Lord our maker, defender, redeemer and friend, accept and multiply the gifts we give today to be for your glory and for the good of your people. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, on this Mother's Day, we are mindful of the tremendous calling of being a mother, and we thank you for our mothers: biological, adoptive, and in community, who have nurtured and cared for us, fed us and led us, selflessly served us and rooted us on. What a gift they have been, and we thank you for those faithful women you have placed in our lives. For those whose mothers have passed from this life, we ask your compassion and comfort and look forward to that glad reunion to come.

We pray for mothers who are struggling right now with all the demands of motherhood: on sleepless nights with uncomforted newborns, with exploring toddlers and shy preschoolers, with curious elementary students and youth wrestling with identity and independence. Give these mothers wisdom and patience, perseverance and strength, along with much-needed rest. We pray for mothers of adult children that they will know how to best share experience without being bossy, how to support and encourage without inhibiting growth.





We pray for those women who wanted children but did not or could not bear them, that you would remind them of their great value and purpose when judged by the world. We pray for women undergoing infertility treatments, that you would make procedures successful and bless their homes with the laughter of children, as is their great hope.

And lastly, mothering God, we pray for all those who did not have a great relationship with their own mother and for all needing tender, loving care this morning: the sick, the outcast, the dying, and the grieving. Remind us of your unconditional love for us, your desire to gather us as a mother hen gathers her chicks, and your stubborn refusal, like any nursing mother, to forget her own.

We ask these blessings in the name of Jesus, who cared for his mother and whose mother stayed with him to the very end on the cross, and we pray as he taught us: **“Our Father ...”**

Charge and benediction

Go out into the world strong and courageous, because you have an Advocate, full of love and power, with you and for you everywhere you go. And may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Tracey Davenport
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