

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

Pre-Service Music: *This is My Father's World* Franklin Sheppard

Welcome and Announcements:

The Worship Committee working with the Way Forward Committee has made two slight changes to the worship service. Prior to the congregational joint Prayer of Confession there will be a time for silent reflection and confession. The second change is during the Prayers of the People. At the beginning of the prayers, individuals are invited to offer a petition of prayer to the congregation. You will be invited to speak your petition with a strong voice, as there will be no microphone, then conclude with the phrase “Merciful God”. The congregation will then respond with “Receive our prayer.” After time has been allowed for all to share their prayers, the Worship Leader will move on to the prepared Prayers of the People, which will use the same prompt and congregational response. We hope this adds additional meaning and increased participation in our worship together.

The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited to come and sing.

Prelude: *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* Aaron Williams

Song of Greeting #645: *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* vs 1

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

We sing aloud a song of thanksgiving

and recount all of God’s wonderful deeds.

Prayer of the Day

Lamb of God, your burden is easy. Good shepherd, your way is righteous. Give us the resolve to follow wherever you lead, knowing the hills and valleys ahead, the places of great suffering and deep hope along the way. May we live our lives worthy of the calling you have given us, in the strong and gentle name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn #310: *I Love Thy Kingdom Lord* vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5
(stand)

Call to Confession:

We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image.

Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy.

Prayers of Confession

Moment for silent reflection and Confession followed by joint Prayer of Confession.

Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails!

In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #583: *Glory to God* English/Latin

Hymn of the Day #438: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

(Please wait for the microphone if you have any updates to the prayer list, or joys or concerns to share.)

This Sunday we are going to try something new with the prayer portion of the service. **If you would like to offer an individual petition of prayer to the congregation, simply speak your petition with a strong voice as there will be no microphone, then conclude with the phrase “Merciful God”. The congregation will respond with “Receive our prayer”.** After time has been allowed for all to share their prayers, we will move into the prepared Prayers of the People, using the same prompt and congregational response.

Petitions from the People:

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Merciful God. **Receive our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 #216: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

Second Lesson: Romans 12:9 - 21

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16: 21 - 28.

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God. Deuteronomy 6:6

Sermon: *After the Burning Bush: The Spirituality of Discernment*
Susan Murray

To the Lord our God, Alpha and Omega, be all glory and honor forever. **Amen.** Revelation 21:6

Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia)

We believe in God, sovereign in grace and love, maker of all things. We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, the firstborn of a new creation. We believe in God's eternal Spirit, pledge and foretaste of the future, given that we may not lose the way, who has endowed us with a diversity of gifts. We are a pilgrim people on the way to the promised goal. On this way, we are called to live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. In this unity, we offer our worship, witness and service and receive one another in love and joy. We are being led to the free obedience of the children of God, and so we look with yearning and hope to the final reconciliation of humanity with God, and the renewal of all creation. Alleluia. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #708: *We Give Thee But Thine Own* vs. 1 and 3

Prayer of Dedication:

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you: make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our heart in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

Sending Hymn #826: *Lift High the Cross* (stand)

Charge and Benediction:

(remain standing)

The blessing of the one God
—Spirit, Son, and Father—
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**
Ephesians 4:4–6

Lead a life worthy of your calling,
giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.**
Ephesians 4:1

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude: *The Church's One Foundation* Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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