

Liturgy for Pilgrims

for The Season of the Commonwealth of God's Goodness
Sunday, October 11, 2026



We are a community inspired by Jesus's message of love, peace, and living in solidarity with the marginalized. We welcome people to join us in rejecting allegiance to empire and systemic injustice by building a better world together.

Through shared meals and evolving traditions, we dedicate ourselves to honoring the worth of every person.



GATHERED FROM OUR VARIOUS WORLDS

Ringling of the Bell to Center the Community

Hymn for the Entrance of the Light

Acclamation

Blessed is the beloved community of God's peace.
And blessed are those who follow the ways of love.

Introduction to the Day's Liturgy

Gathering Song

**Come, dear friends, let's feast together,
stories share and fears release.
Christ is opening wide the circle.
may this house shine bright with peace.**

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Welcome all to this space of hope and love. As we light the peace lamp, we are reminded of our commitment to make this place a safe place where hatred is turned to love, fear is dispelled, and peace prevails. **May the design of God's peace be present today.**

Hymn



SHARING OUR STORIES, ANCIENT AND NEW

Sharing Our Stories

After each sharing: **We are loved.**

Prayer of Illumination

God of the returning exiles, you carried your people home with holy cups in their hands and taught them to sing of your goodness among the ruins of empire. Open our hearts and our eyes, so we may know where to raise our altars and whom to welcome to the feast. **Amen.**

from Ezra 1 and 3

During the first year of King Cyrus of Persia's reign in 539 BCE, the Eternal One influenced the spirit of the Persian king to send a proclamation and written letter throughout his empire...

"The Eternal One, the God of heaven, has decided to give me all the

kingdoms of the world to rule as my own. In return for this, He has told me to build Him a new house in Jerusalem of Judah. Any of His people living in my empire may return to Jerusalem of Judah with the help of the Eternal God. There you may rebuild the temple of the Eternal, Israel's God, with my resources and blessing, because He is the God who lives in Jerusalem. Every Jew who lives here or in any other part of my empire and wishes to return to Jerusalem should be supported by his neighbors. They should give him silver, gold, goods, and cattle for his journey and should send a freewill offering to the True God's temple in Jerusalem."

The tribal leaders of Judah and Benjamin, the priests and Levites, and everyone motivated in his or her spirit by the True God prepared to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Eternal's temple. All their neighbors gave them silver, gold, goods, cattle, and valuable things for the journey, just as Cyrus had requested, and sent freewill offerings. Even King Cyrus commanded his treasurer, Mithredath, to return the vessels from the Eternal's temple (which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and stored in his gods' temple) to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. The vessels included 30 gold basins, 1,000 silver basins, 29 extra dishes, 30 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a different pattern, and 1,000 other articles. Sheshbazzar and the exiles carried a total of 5,400 gold and silver vessels from Babylon to Jerusalem.

In the seventh month, the month of Tishri, when the Israelites had settled into their towns and when all of the returning Jews had gathered together in Jerusalem in preparation for the festivals, Jeshua (son of Jozadak) and his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel (son of Shealtiel) and others of those returning home built a new altar of uncut stone for burnt offerings to the True God of Israel following the law of Moses, the man of the True God. The men built the altar on the ruined foundation of Solomon's altar because they feared those who were left behind in the land during the exile. Jeshua and the priests burned offerings to the Eternal each morning and evening and celebrated the Feast of Booths just as Moses had prescribed, offering the required number of burnt offerings each day. The daily burnt offerings to the Eternal began on the first day of the seventh month, and when the Feast of Booths ended, our continual offerings did not. They gave burnt sacrifices for the new moons and all of the Eternal's prescribed festivals, and everyone's freewill offerings were given to Him.

After the laborers had laid the Eternal's temple foundation, the priests and Levites praised the Eternal as their beloved King David of Israel had prescribed. The priests dressed in their vestments and played trumpets,

the Levite descendants of Asaph played their cymbals, and together they sang praises and gave thanks to the Eternal.

The priests and levites sang: “We praise him because He is good and because of His continual and loyal love for Israel.”

All the people joined in, shouting praises to the Eternal because the foundation of His temple was complete. But in the midst of those praises, the priests, Levites, and tribal leaders who remembered the first temple wept loudly when they saw it because they knew this temple could never be as grand as Solomon’s. There were shouts of joy intermingled with cries of sorrow, and the entire ensemble grew so loud it could be heard a great distance away.

Sacred words to inspire us. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

See Psalm sheet

Gospel Acclamation

from John 2

The time was near to celebrate the Passover, the festival commemorating when God rescued His children from slavery in Egypt, so Jesus went to Jerusalem for the celebration. Upon arriving, He entered the temple to worship. But the porches and colonnades were filled with merchants selling sacrificial animals (such as doves, oxen, and sheep) and exchanging money. Jesus fashioned a whip of cords and used it with skill driving out animals; He scattered the money and overturned the tables, emptying profiteers from the house of God. There were dove merchants still standing around, and Jesus reprimanded them.

Jesus said, “What are you still doing here? Get all your stuff, and haul it out of here! Stop making My Father’s house a place for your own profit.”

The disciples were astounded, but they remembered that the Hebrew Scriptures said, “Jealous devotion for God’s house consumes me.” Some of the Jews cried out to Him in unison.

The crowds said, “Who gave You the right to shut us down? If it is God, then show us a sign.

Jesus replied, “You want a sign? Here it is. Destroy this temple, and I will rebuild it in 3 days.

The crowds responded, “Three days? This temple took more than 46 years to complete. You think You can replicate that feat in 3 days?”

The true temple was His body. His disciples remembered this bold prediction after He was resurrected. Because of this knowledge, their faith in the Hebrew Scriptures and in Jesus’ teachings grew..

Story of our brother, Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

A Midrash

Our Faith

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives; whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth; whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all; and, whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we trust that love. And in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves in the service of others: to seek justice and to live in peace; to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God’s goodness; to live in the freedom of forgiveness and in the power of the Spirit of Love; and in the company of all the faithful – past, present, and yet to come – so to be the Church, for the glory of God. **Amen.**

Confession

Good and generous God, we confess that we have kept what was never ours to keep, and we have participated in systems that have stolen dignity and the necessities of life from our neighbors. We have guarded our comfort while people went without shelter, and we have honored buildings and institutions above people. Turn us back to your commonwealth, where what was taken is returned and all are fed. Amen.

(Silence is held.)

Jesus brings the liberation of God’s commonwealth and shatters our complicity. We are released, with eyes and ears and mouths and hearts open, sent forth to dismantle the powers of death and embody love.

Those in power do not hold our future. Thanks be to God.



SACRED MEAL IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF CHRIST

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you!**

Presentation of the Gifts

**Praise God, the Womb of life and breath.
Praise Christ, the Witness over death.
Praise Holy Spirit, Wind set free.
Loving and loved, eternally. Amen.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up in hope.
Let us give thanks for life and breath.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give our thanks and praise for your commonwealth of goodness! For though we are often lured away into empire's promise of security, enthroning power and domination in our hearts and in our actions, we are still witnesses of your holy community that is bound together with bread in defiance of untruth.

So, at this table of remembrance and thanksgiving, for the many ways in which you have demonstrated your love and with the whole company of saints who have feasted around your ever-expanding table from the beginning of time, we sing praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of love and strength.
All creation is full of your imagination.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.**

Holy are you and blessed is your Christ. He said, *Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the reign of God; woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.*

On the night he was handed over, sold by a friend for thirty pieces of silver and delivered to the authorities, he kept a liturgy with his friends, a feast of your people's freedom from Pharaoh. He took bread, the fruit of the earth and of human hands. He gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we are one with Jesus. And so we proclaim a mystery of faith:

Christ lives. Christ dies. Christ rises again and again.

We share these gifts, bread from the earth and wine from the vine. They are the work of farmworkers whose names we do not know, who are too often paid too little for the harvest we enjoy, and we offer them in sorrow for that injustice and in hope of its undoing.

And with these gifts we offer ourselves, a living sacrifice: our possessions and our privilege, our comforts and our securities, everything we have clutched in fear. Teach us the yieldedness of your commonwealth, that we may hold nothing back from you and nothing back from our neighbor.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. Send your Spirit upon us, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ, broken and shared.

And gather us at the last with all your saints, at the banquet where there is bread enough for all, in the Commonwealth of God's Goodness that has no end.

We sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

The bread is broken.

**O lamb of God, who takes away the shame of the world,
show mercy in us.**

**O lamb of God, who takes away the shame of the world,
grant us peace.**

Until the day when justice is no longer imagined but lived, when peace is not enforced but shared, when every table is crowded and everybody is welcomed—we will gather, we will give thanks, we will break bread, and we will practice the future. **Amen.**

Communion of Solidarity



WE GO IN PEACE TO LOVE

Next Week in the Liturgy

Pastor's Commendation

Sending Song

**Go, dear friends, bring liberation:
stories share and fears release.
Christ has opened wide the circle.
May your lives shine bright with peace.**

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



In Two Weeks: Third Sunday in the Season of the
Commonwealth of God's Goodness (10/18/2025)

Debts are forgiven, land is returned, and the assembly says "Amen" and sings! Psalm 112 calls happy the one who lends generously and gives to the poor. In Acts, "great grace was upon them all" and no one was in need. Zacchaeus welcomes Jesus "with joy" and it is revealed that he has already been giving half his possessions to the poor.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Montgomery, OSL, Pastor