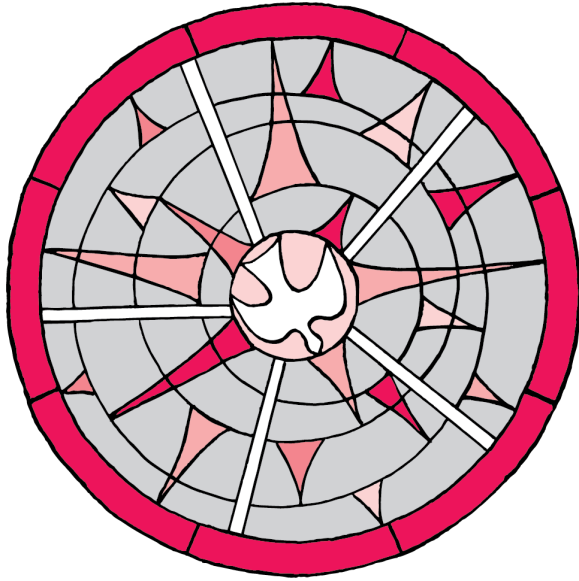




Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Prelude in Classic Style"

Gordon Young

Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: May the Holy Spirit unite us in worship, point us toward Jesus Christ, and inspire us to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with God. Come, let us worship God.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

All: **Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

Liturgist: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

All: **Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

Psalms 105:1-6

* **All Singing:** **502 "O Give the Lord Wholehearted Praise"**
Singing verses 1, 2, 4 and 6

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing:** **559 "Ten Thousand Reasons"**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Reconciliation

Liturgist: Jesus said to his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

All: **For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"** *Matthew 16:24-26*

Silent Confession and Reflection

All Singing: "Have Mercy"
All singing after verse one

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us
O Lord, have mercy, O Lord, have mercy

O help my unbelief, O help my unbelief
O Lord, have mercy, O Lord, have mercy

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us
O Lord, have mercy, O Lord, have mercy

Have mercy....

Liturgist: What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

All: **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Liturgist: He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? *Romans 8:31-33*

All: **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** *Romans 8:38-39*

* **All Singing: 772 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"**

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: **Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Help us to hear and obey what you say to us today. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Based on John 6:68

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-28

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: "The Weight of *Hesed*"

* **All Singing: 175 "When I Survey the Wonderous Cross"**

Dedication

TESTIMONY

Liturgist: At peace with God and standing in grace, we join our brother in bearing witness to God's *hesed*.

All: **Thanks be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Bethany Christian Services

OFFERTORY "Here I Am, Lord"

arr. Jack Schrader

* **All Singing: 927 "God, the Father of your People"**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending

* BENEDICTION

Postlude: "Neo-Classique"

Mark Hayes

Worship Leaders

Organist / Pianist: Dora Diephouse
Pianist: Anne Triezenberg-Sims
Vocalists: Karis & Moriah Dykstra
Henry Evenhouse
Flute: Moriah Dykstra
Guitar: Jeremy Hulford
Bass: Clay Carlson
Percussion: Henry Evenhouse
Clay Carlson
Minister: Roger Nelson

Acolyte: Grant Quist
Liturgist: Valerie Bosscher
Prayer: Mark Friesen
Testimony: Michael VanderWeele

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)
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