

An Alternative Vision of What God Intends Life to be

Season of Pentecost, Sunday – July 26, 2026

MEDITATION

*Spirit who claims us and makes us your own, join us as we come to worship today.
Reveal to us the Word within the words, that we might see Jesus and learn his way.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“Through His Eyes of Love”

Music: Jeremy Dalton

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 119)

Linda Thomas, Deacon

One: The decrees of God are wonderful,

People: The unfolding of God’s word gives light and understanding.

One: Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

People: Make your face shine upon your servants.

One: We come together to worship the living God.

*SONG OF REJOICING

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” 2x

In Pew

REPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: Before a word is on our tongue, God you know it completely. Before we ask for forgiveness, God you are at work to set things right.

All: God, you have searched us and found us wanting. You have known our innermost thoughts and called us to better things. You have set us in this world to love and serve you by loving and serving one another, to worship you by tending to those most vulnerable among us.

L: When we fail, do not abandon us. When we go astray, call us back home.

All: Search us O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our thoughts. Root out the ways in us that need to grow, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

Black 433

WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director

ANTHEM

"My Heart Overflows"

*Words: The Psalms, Music: Eugene Butler
Sung by the choir*

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, p. 17

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"An alternative vision of what God intends life to be" *Rev. Eric Strosine*

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"Seek Ye First"

Last page

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys or concerns out loud during the prayers of the people. Please respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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. All are invited to sing "Amen". (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Rejoice, Be Glad" *Words: Charlotte Lee, Music: Douglas E. Wagner
Sung by the choir*

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

*UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, you have sown good seed among us. Receive now the harvest of what you have planted, the good gifts of our lives, time and resources, to further your kingdom of heaven. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"You Are the Seed, Seed, Scattered and Sown"

Insert

*BLESSING

SUNG BENEDICTION

"You Are My All in All"

Words/Music: Dennis Jernigan

** Congregation is invited to sing with the choir*

Words: You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek, You are my all in all. Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool. You are my all in all. Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name, Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.

POSTLUDE

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

Music: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren, Arr: Tracey Craig McKibben

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Lay Reader, Rosemary Carey; Choir, Alan King, Clifford Moore, Chris Polloni, Malcolm Donald, Meg Tivey, Joyce Kenneally, Hal Leeds, Kay Clark, Linda Thomas; Hospitality, Sue Long; Food Donation Janet King

Leading worship today: Rev. Eric Stroshine, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music Director; Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director, Linda Thomas, Deacon

NEW HERE TODAY?

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk is an invitation to stand if you are able.*
Bold text indicates speaking in unison.
 2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children leave worship for Bible-themed learning through crafts, conversation, and games with Lisa Allen.*
 3. **Take Two:** *This adult faith formation group meets after worship every other Sunday with Lisa Allen. Join the conversation this Sunday in the small classroom.*
 4. **Summer Refreshments & Conversation:** *Gather with us after worship to greet friends and make new ones in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
 5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina Williams or Deacon of the day.*
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Seek Ye First

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Descant

D F#m G D G

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia, Al-

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

D Em7 A7sus D F#m

le - - - lu - ia, Al - - - le-

right - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

G D G Em D

lu - - - ia, Al - - - le - - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 2/2 time. The first system includes a descant for the first line of the hymn, followed by the main melody and bass line. The second system continues the melody and bass line, with a descant for the second line. The third system concludes the piece with a final descant and a double bar line. Chords are indicated above the staff lines: D, F#m, G, D, G in the first system; D, Em7, A7sus, D, F#m in the second system; and G, D, G, Em, D in the third system. The lyrics are written below the staff lines, with some words in italics. The descant is marked with a 'D' in a box.