



**The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026**

**Annual Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic
10:30 a.m.**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Stated Supply Pastor - Rev. Sandy Lacey
Director of Music - Sally Gant

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Greeting, Announcements, & Centering Silence in the Presence of God

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

adapted from Psalm 100 (*Message translation*)

One: On your feet now - applaud God!

Many: We bring a gift of laughter and sing ourselves into God's presence.

One: Know this: God is God and God made us; we did not make God.

Many: We're God's people, his well-tended sheep.

We enter God's presence with the password, "Thank you!"

One: Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him.

Many: For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever. Let us worship God!

Hymn #15: "All Creatures of our God and King" (verses 1,2,3,6)

(*see handout*)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy and Grace-Giving God, we confess that we are often thirsty for the wrong thing - power, wealth, the newest gadget, more stuff, etc. They may bring brief happiness, but never joy that springs forth from our soul. Forgive our self-centeredness and lack of compassion for those who suffer because of our thirst and short-sightedness. Give us new eyes and a compassionate heart that recognizes you in the people around us, and give us thirst for the things that really matter - justice, mercy, intimacy with you and others.

(*silent confession*) AMEN.

Words of Assurance (*responsive*)

One: God tells us through the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "He who created you, he who formed you - do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

Many: We are forgiven through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

***Response** (*all singing*)

Hymn # 59

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning;

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.

Sharing God's Peace

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

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Holy God, send your Spirit so that we might hear your word to us this day.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 42:1-6a and Psalm 46:1-3

Sermon

Thirsty

Rev. Sandy Lacey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn #626: “As the Deer”

(*see handout*)

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. We will trust in the Lord!

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

(*silent prayer followed by Pastoral Prayer and unison Lord’s 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

Doxology (*all singing*)

Hymn #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

EMBODYING THE WORD

Hymn #613: “O Lord, Our God”

(*see handout*)

Benediction and Blessing of our meal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following today’s meal, everyone is invited to help the Mission Committee pack 70 breakfast to-go bags for City with Dwellings. We will assemble packaged snacks into paper lunch bags that will go to participants in the monthly foot and vision clinics at CwD. Since 2017, City with Dwellings in Winston-Salem has been dedicated to connecting with vulnerable neighbors year-round through outreach, resource navigation, programs at the Community First Center, and housing support.