



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

Pastor Monica Russell
Elder Judy Pike, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Debi Godwin, Choir Director
Bethany Dunn Gulde, Video Tech



Order of Worship

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

~ GATHERING AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ~

CHIMES

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT: *“Pass It On”* (see insert - verse 1)

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it:
You spread His love to everyone, you want to pass it on.*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND GREETING

This is the day that the Lord has made! *Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

PRELUDE: *“A Morning Trumpeting”* - Ritter

THE WELCOMING OF GUESTS

(We invite our guests to use the nametags in the attendance pads to identify themselves so that we may get to know each other.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord and make known the Lord’s deeds among the peoples.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to God; tell of all the Lord’s wonderful works.

Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and God’s strength; seek the Lord’s presence continually.

Let us worship God.

* OPENING HYMN: *“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”* - #817

* **CALL TO CONFESSION**

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by your grace. Amen.

~ Let us take a few moments for silent reflection. ~

* **THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. *Thanks be to God! Amen*

* **GLORIA PATRI: “Glory Be to the Father”**

*Glory be to the Father; and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.*

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you.*

(You are invited to offer your neighbor a brief sign of peace.)

~ **HEARING THE WORD OF THE LORD** ~

* **SPECIAL MUSIC: “If You Only Had Faith” - #176**

Debi Godwin & George Wheat—Duet

CHILDRENS TIME: Richard Carter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Courage, be in our speaking and in our listening. Speak to our souls' deep understanding. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, *Thanks be to God.*

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:31-33; 44-51

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON: "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD: "from The Barmen Declaration, 8.14-8.16"

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him. To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community.

~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OUR PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Please remember that our service is live streamed)

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *"Jesus, Priceless Treasure" - based on the Chorale melody by Johann Cruger, arr. Putnam*

* **DOXOLOGY:** *“Our God is an Awesome God”* - #616 (sing twice)

*Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God!*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

~ TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD ~

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *“What is the World Like”* - #771 (verses 1-4)

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE:** *“What is the World Like”* - #771 (verse 5)

*These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God’s will is done.*

* **POSTLUDE:** *“Faith Eternal”* - Broughton



Pick up your mustard seed in the narthex.