

SESSION LITURGY

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening Prayer

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

You are our lamp, O God. You lighten our darkness.

You are our strong refuge and make our way safe.

Gracious and loving God, whose wisdom orders all things in heaven and on earth, grant that your Spirit may guide our hearts and minds. As we discern the stewardship of the resources entrusted to this congregation, as we walk faithfully through this pastoral transition, and as we seek clarity and good order in our common life, shape our deliberations according to your will so that all we decide may strengthen your Church and serve the mission of Christ in this place. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings and Group Reflection

Colossians 1:11-20 (NRSV)

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Continuing Education: Session's Fiduciary Responsibility

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CARE AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION AND THE SESSION

REFLECTIONS FROM THE OBSERVERS

Observer #1: For what are we thankful?

Observer #2: What needs our prayers of intercession?

Observer #3: Where do we see God at work among us?

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SESSION TOP FIVE

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SENDING IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING PRAYER

Holy God, we thank you for the work you have entrusted to this Session and for the grace that has carried us through this meeting. Bless the conversations held, the decisions made, and the hopes we carry forward for this congregation. Grant us peace where there is uncertainty, unity where there are differing views, and joy in the shared calling you have given us. Keep us steadfast, courageous, and compassionate. Send us out strengthened by your Spirit to shepherd your people with wisdom, humility, and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray boldly, saying:

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Benediction & Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen