

Worship Planner for Sunday, October 25, 2026

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

[Lucknow- Lighting Christ Candle]

Responsive Call to Worship

The Lord has been our dwelling place in all generations.

From everlasting to everlasting, God is God; and so we come to worship.

God satisfies us every morning with steadfast love;

Let us rejoice and be glad all our days.

Tell of God's glorious power and praise God's holy name.

We will offer God the work of our hands and praise from the depths of our hearts.

Opening Hymn #441 Can a little child like me

Prayer of Approach and Lord's Prayer

God, our God; You are gracious and loving, holy and eternal; your love is steadfast, your presence ever near. Your wisdom is older than time and as fresh as the morning dew. Your name has come to us through the centuries, yet you can always do a new thing to draw us back to you.

Holy God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, Three and One; we offer you our prayers and praise this day in humble expectation; refresh our understanding and nurture our readiness to serve you. In recalling all that you have done and who you are, we recall who we have been and what we have done. Out of a desire to begin again with you and one another,
we confess to you our sins:

**Merciful God; you know our hearts, the times we truly loved one another
and the times we merely tolerated each other.**

**You know our minds, the times we focused on you
and the times we pursued our own purposes.**

**You know our bodies, the times we have served you
and the times we have served only ourselves.**

**Forgive us those times we went our own way,
and renew our commitment to live lives marked by your grace,
while we pray as Jesus taught us,**

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 and ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends in Christ, we are forgiven people,
 set free from past failures,
 to make a fresh start this day and every day.
 The Holy Spirit empowers us to love God
 and to love others.
 Thanks be to God for such everlasting grace!

Music Ministry

Family Focus

Hymn #486 The Church of Christ, in every age (vs. 1, 2, 3, & 5)

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God; as we listen to the Scriptures this day, send your Holy Spirit so we encounter the words as your Living Word. Open our hearts to respond in love and service for Christ's sake.
 Amen.

Scriptures

Responsive Psalm 36: 5-10

Your loyal love, Lord, extends to the skies;
 your faithfulness reaches the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the strongest mountains;
your justice is like the deepest sea.
Lord, you save both humans and animals.
 Your faithful love is priceless, God!
 Humanity finds refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the bounty of your house;
you let them drink from your river of pure joy.
 Within you is the spring of life.
 In your light, we see light.
Extend your faithful love to those who know you;
extend your righteousness to those whose heart is right.

Matthew 22:34-40 Great commandment

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He replied, *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."*

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Focus on the hinges

Hymn #632 Help us accept each other

Invitation to the Offering

As members of Christ's body, the Church,
we draw on the gifts of many other followers of Jesus,
offered to him over centuries of service.
Our gifts join theirs so that God will be praised
and Jesus' love spread in this generation
and those still to come.

Doxology #79

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God; you are both faithful and fruitful as you embrace each new generation. Bless our gifts and make them fruitful beyond our imagining. Keep us faithful in this generation so that the inheritance we have received in Christ will continue in generations yet to come. Amen.

Mission Moment

Prayers of the People

Faithful God; we do not have enough words to thank you for all you have given us and the love you share with us in Christ Jesus. Help us review the week just past, remembering the ways we encountered you – in the beauty of creation, the support of friends, the wisdom of books, the joy of music, and the energy of exercise.

God of comfort and challenge; we are grateful for your presence in these uncertain times at home, at work, and at school. We give thanks for your attention to the small details and the large responsibilities we face. Make us attentive to the needs of those around us.

God of persistence and inspiration; we remember before you the many who struggle to recognize your presence or fail to hear your voice amid all the competing voices in our world. We pray for those feeling depressed or anxious, those facing grief and loneliness, and those who are worried about their health or their future.

God of justice and leadership; we pray for our country and nations of the world facing immense challenges. Guide decision makers in these complex times and keep the hearts of those with resources open to those who do not have enough. We pray for places where justice is lacking, where violence threatens, or leaders are untrustworthy.

God of the Church, we pray for your church; where the church is divided, heal it; where we are in error, correct us; where we are tired, give us hope and expectation; where we are serving your purposes, nurture and protect us.

God of grace and guidance; You call us to be your hands and feet, your voice and comfort in the world, following the example of Jesus. Hear us now as we lift our silent prayers to You. (silence). Merciful and Compassionate God; equip us to respond boldly to the needs around us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Hymn #704 Teach me, God, to wonder

Benediction

Benediction Song

Musical Postlude