

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church
July 26, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude Lento (from a voluntary)

Word for 2026: Practice.

People: *May we practice becoming.*

Salutation

Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Call to Worship

Come, all who are seeking God.

We come with open hearts and willing spirits.

The Holy Spirit is still sowing seeds of hope,
still gathering unlikely people,
still calling disciples to follow.

We have come to listen, to learn, and to grow.

Jesus says,

"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

We come not merely to hear the Word, but to practice it.

Come, let us worship God.

With joy, gratitude, and expectation!

*Opening Hymn (#299 Red LUYH Book)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Call to Confession

Jesus teaches that the condition of the soil determines whether a seed takes root and bears fruit. The same is true of our hearts. Too often, fear hardens us. Distraction crowds us. Comfort keeps us from growing. Yet God never stops sowing grace. Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, You continue to scatter the seeds of Your kingdom, yet we confess that our hearts are often crowded. Some days Your Word lands on hardened

places where fear has made us resistant. Some days it lands among distractions, where busyness, comfort, and anxiety choke what You are trying to grow. Some days we receive Your Word with enthusiasm, only to abandon it when following Jesus becomes costly. Forgive us. Break up the hardened places. Pull the weeds we have allowed to flourish. Deepen our roots. Give us hearts that hear, trust, and practice Your Word. Make our lives fertile ground where love grows, justice flourishes, mercy abounds, and hope bears fruit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News. God never gives up on the soil. Again and again, God sows grace, offers mercy, and invites us into new life. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hearts are being renewed, and the Holy Spirit is faithfully at work within us. Friends, believe the Good News.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing the Peace

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation (#468 Blue Book)

Be Thou My Vision

**Please remain seating*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 8:1-24

The Word of God, for the People of God!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory

Jesus Paid It All (Lyrics Inserted)

Hall/Grape
Nancy Tanis, contralto

*Doxology

Tune (Old Hundreth)

*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of The People and The Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Hymn (#67 Blue Book)

Blessed Assurance

*Benediction

Postlude

Diapason Movement (from a voluntary)

Green

Our Invitation

Welcome to United Reformed Church! As we join together in prayer, song, and praise to God, we pray that the blessings and fellowship you find here will enrich your life. *If you are physically able, an asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand.* Bold text signifies opportunities for the congregation to read and respond responsively.

Pastor Office Hours: Wednesday 5–7 PM; Sunday 10:30 AM–12:30 PM
Church Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs 9AM–2PM; Wed 3–7 PM

Church Staff

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