

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church
July 19, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude Moderato (Interlude) Goodwin
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 weary from pretending.
Come, all who are tired of carrying what cannot be undone.
**God welcomes the broken,
the questioning,
the hopeful,
and the hurting.**
Here, mercy speaks louder than shame.
Here, forgiveness is stronger than failure.
We come trusting the love of Christ.
Come and worship the One
who sees us completely
and still invites us closer.
Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn (#92 Blue Book) My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Call to Confession
Friends, Simon thought he knew who belonged at the table. The woman believed she had no right to be there. Yet Jesus saw both of them clearly. One needed forgiveness he did not recognize. The other received forgiveness she could not earn. The good news is that Christ invites us to come honestly—not pretending we have it all together, nor believing we are beyond God's mercy. Trusting in the abundant grace of God, let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession
Holy and Merciful God, Too often we have loved categories more than people. We have judged stories we never took time to hear. We have measured others by their worst moments while asking to be remembered by our best intentions. We confess that we have been Simon—careful, respectable, and blind. Forgive us for withholding compassion, for assuming we know who belongs, and for forgetting that every one of us stands in need of grace. Teach us again that no one is beyond Your mercy, including us. In Jesus' name, Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance
Hear the good news. In Jesus Christ, our failures do not have the final word. The One who welcomed sinners, restored the broken, and sent people away in peace still welcomes us today. In Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and invited into new life.
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 (Insert) Lord, Prepare Me
**Please remain seating*

Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Reading Luke 7:36-50

The Word of God, for the People of God!
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory “To God Be the Glory" with "Soldiers March" by Robert Schumann. Written by William Doane and arranged by Jolene Boyd
Piano, Nancy Cooper

*Doxology Tune (Old Hundreth)
*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of The People and The Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Hymn (#341 Red LUYH Book) We’ve Come This Far By Faith
*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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lillian Hines pastorlillianhines@gmail.com

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