

Sunday, June 21, 2026 – Fathers' Day Order of Service

Lighting of the Christ Candle, Welcome & Announcements, Introduction of Guest Minister: Pastor Don Macpherson

Acknowledgement of the Land We acknowledge that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, the Oneida Nation of the Thames, the Munsee Delaware Nation, and the Delaware Nation of Moraviantown. For thousands of years, the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, and Lūnaapéewak peoples have loved, walked gently upon, and stewarded these lands, woods, and waters into well-being. (The Ojibwe name for the Thames River, meaning "Antler River"): Desh-kan Zee-bee

Call to Worship -based on Psalm 103

L: Come, bless the Lord with me! For the Lord is like a father to his children, compassionate and merciful, filled with endless love.

P: **He forgives our sins, and he surrounds us with love, grace and mercy and fills our lives with good things!**

L: God is good

P: **All the time**

L: And all the time

P: **God is good.**

L: Let us worship God together! In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ministry of Music Doug Schell / Need You Now

Gathering, Responsive Prayer

L: Heavenly Father, we gather today with grateful hearts to worship You, the perfect example of unconditional love and protection.

P: **We thank You for the gift of family and for the men You have placed in our lives to guide, protect, and support us.**

L: Today, we ask for Your special blessing upon all fathers and those who have been like dads to us.

P: **Grant them Your wisdom when they are uncertain, Your strength when they are weary, and Your grace when they feel inadequate.**

L: We also lift up those in our community for whom this day brings a heavy heart—those grieving the loss of their father, and those navigating broken relationships.

P: **May Your comforting presence fill our lives with peace. As Your children, knit our hearts together with love for you and each other, as we worship Your holy name. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy*, VU # 315 (verses 1 and 4)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning

Our song shall rise to thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name

in earth and sky and sea;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Call to Confession Father's Day brings great joy to some, but to others, it brings pain, grief, or a deep sense of absence. God sees our joyful and grateful hearts and also knows every hidden wound, every complicated relationship, and every unmet expectation. Let us step out of the shadows of past bitterness, opening our broken hearts to the only Father who will never abandon us.

Responsive Prayer of Confession

L: Compassionate God, we bring to You the broken pieces of our family histories.

P: **We confess our struggles to love and to forgive those who have failed or hurt us. Forgive us when we cling to resentment, and when we judge others without acknowledging our own shortcomings. We also confess our failure to support the hurt and the lonely around us.**

L: Lord Jesus, heal the pain left by loss, neglect, or broken trust. Teach us how to release the past into Your hands, so that we may fully receive Your perfect, unconditional love today and every day. In the amazing love, mercy and grace of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance Hear the good news of our adoption in Christ: God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He has not left us as orphans; He has given us the Spirit of adoption, by which we cry, "Abba! Father!" To all who humbly seek His mercy, the Lord says: "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters." In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and deeply loved. Amen.

Offertory Invitation & Prayer God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make up the Body of Christ. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God - we share our time, our skills, our resources and in so doing, we say "yes" to God's invitation to join the Lord in His Kingdom here on earth. Gracious Heavenly Father, as we present our offerings today, we are reminded of your great love for us. Your love knows no bounds and is beyond measure. Help us to reflect your love in all that we do, including our giving. May these gifts be used to spread your love to others, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Thank you for your love that never fails us. Amen."

Children's Hymn Jesus Love Me, This I Know, VU # 365

Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to Him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.

Refrain
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."
Refrain

Jesus loves me, still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.
Refrain

Children's Ministry You Are A Treasure -based on Luke 15:3-7

What special treasures do you have? Where do you keep them? Did you know that you are a special treasure of God? Actually, the whole world is God's Treasure – and you are a part of it. In the Bible, Jesus tells us three stories about how special we are. One of them is about a flock of sheep, one of whom goes missing. The shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to go find the 1 that is missing. You are like that one: God will look for you and keep you safe. When you go off to Sunday School the adults are going to hear the other two stories that Jesus told about being special and God finding them and keeping them safe.

The Lord's Prayer

Children leave for Sunday School

Hymn Come, Let Us Sing Of A Wonderful Love, VU # 574

Come, let us sing of a
wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and
true,
out of the heart of the Father
above,
streaming to me and to you,
wonderful love, wonderful love,
dwells in the heart of the
Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel
to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and
hopeless to dwell
sharing their sorrow and
shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the
lost,
saving, redeeming at
measureless cost.

Jesus, is seeking the
wanderers yet,
why do they roam, why do they
roam?
Love only waits to forgive and
forget,
home, weary wanderers,
home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the
Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou
wonderful Love!
Come and abide, come and
abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride;
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of
thee.

Scripture Readings**Matthew 6:19-21 - Treasures in Heaven (NIV)**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 15:11-32 The Parable of the Lost Son (NIV)

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So, he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

So, he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

So, he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So, they began to celebrate.

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So, he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So, his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home; you kill the fattened calf for him!'

"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Reflection The Sacred Exchange: We Are His Treasure, and He Is Ours

In Luke chapter 15, Jesus teaches through 3 parables, The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and the Lost Son. Jesus is responding to the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Law who are disgusted that he is spending time with "sinners." Luke 1:1-2 15- "*Now the*

tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Today, we focus on the Parable of the Prodigal Son as Jesus teaches his listeners about our Heavenly Father and how he treasures every human and celebrates when even one person repents and comes home to Him. Here are the lessons Jesus teaches about our compassionate Heavenly Father through this parable.

- The youngest son asks for his inheritance from the Father.
- The son squanders his inheritance on worldly pleasures far away from his father.
- The son ends up broke, hungry and now working on a pig farm.
- He is now aware of his sin and shame. Decides to go home to ask forgiveness of his father, not sure if he may be punished, saying, *"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants."*
- But as he approaches home,
 - his father has compassion upon him
 - he runs to meet him
 - he throws his arms around him
 - he puts a robe over him, a family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
 - These are gifts that states to everyone, "my son was lost but now is found"
 - Then he calls on a celebration... a party to share his joy.
 - Jesus concludes to say, *" I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."*

Lessons for us

1. God, our Father, loves us unconditionally, waiting for us to seek him and come home when we stray and choose to repent.
2. We, as God's church, celebrate with him, whenever a lost person receives God's mercy and grace.
3. The SACRED EXCHANGE: God tells us, as His children, we are His treasured possession, but the story doesn't end with us being passive items in God's treasure chest. The cycle of love is only complete when we look back at Him and say, "Lord, You are my treasure, too."

When these two truths collide, your daily life completely changes. Because you are His treasure, you no longer have to perform to earn your value. You can stop worrying about rejection, failure, or the lies of the enemy. Your value is already locked securely in heaven. Because He is your treasure, you no longer have to chase the endless anxiety of chasing earthly security. Your ultimate joy is already safe with Him.

Prayers of the People Heavenly Father, We gather today to praise You, the perfect Father, from whom every family on earth derives its name. Thank you for your fierce protection, your tender comfort, and your unwavering presence in our lives.

Today, we lift up the men in our community. We thank you for biological fathers, adoptive fathers, foster fathers, grandfathers, and spiritual mentors who have poured out their lives to guide the next generation. Grant them divine wisdom, patience, and supernatural strength. Help them to model integrity, gentleness, and sacrificial love to their households.

Lord, we also acknowledge that this day brings complex emotions for many. In silence, we pray for:

- Those who are grieving the loss of their fathers, or parents who are grieving the loss of a child.
- Those who experience the painful ache of broken or abusive relationships.

Wrap your arms around them today. Comfort them with the truth that you are a Father to the fatherless and a defender of the hurting. Direct our hearts toward your eternal kingdom, call us home, where all pain is healed and all relationships are made whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray.

Parting Hymn *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling*, The Hymnary # 494

Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling. Calling for you and for me. Patiently, Jesus is waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.	Refrain Come home! (come home) Come home! (come home) Ye who are weary, Come home! Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home!	Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading? Pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger And heed not His mercies? Mercies for you and for me. Refrain	Time now is fleeting, The moments are passing. Passing from you and from me. Shadows are gathering, Deathbeds are coming, Coming for you and for me. Refrain	O for the wonderful love He has promised, Promised for you and for me. Though we have sinned We have mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me. Refrain
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Benediction May God our Heavenly Father, whose love is from everlasting to everlasting, rest His strong hands upon your shoulders. May He whisper words of courage into your ears and fill your heart with patience, wisdom, and a spirit of guidance. As you go forth into the world, remember that you are His beloved child, and you do not walk alone. May the grace of Jesus Christ and the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit sustain you and your family today and always. Amen."

Choral Amen

Extinguish the Christ Candle