If you arrive early, please be sensitive to those around you as we use this time to prepare for worship.

Please, silence your electronic devices.

Gathering

Prelude | *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* arr. James Biery (b. 1956)

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome & Announcements Amanda Onks

† Call to Worship | adapt. from "Enemies" & "To My Mother" – Wendell Berry

From where then is love to come –
love for your enemy that is the way of liberty?
From forgiveness.

Forgiven, they go free of you, and you of them;
they are to us as sunlight on a green branch.

And this, then, is the vision of that Heaven of which we have heard,
where those who love each other have forgiven each other.

† Hymn, No. 557 | *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* Dennis

† Opening Prayer

Lord of the church,
you call a broken people
around your table:
in times of disagreement,
teach us to listen,
loose us from prejudice,
and bind us to your way of forgiving grace;
through Jesus Christ, who stands at the heart of our gathering. Amen.

† Passing of the Peace | *In peace and unity, let us offer signs of love to all around us.*

Children's Moment

Children preschool through fifth grade may go to Spark Kids on the Children's Wing (2nd Floor) or they may remain in worship with their families. First time guests, check in your child with the Children's Ministry leader.

Hymn, No. 632 *vv. 1* **|** *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Union Seminary

Pastoral Prayer Chris Brown

† Hymn, No. 2169 *vv. 2-3* **|** *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Union Seminary

Proclamation & Response

Offering of Our Tithes & Gifts

To give electronically, scan the QR code or visit **Munsey.org/give**.
You may also mail a check to the church.

Anthem | *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Op. 11 Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

O Redeemer divine, our soul hope of salvation,
Eternal Light of the earth and the sky,
On this Thy holy day, we kneel in adoration,
O Savior, turn on us Thy loving eye!

Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all-consuming,
whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell,
And rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all-illumining,
that they may waken Thy mercy to tell!

O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us, we implore Thee,
who here are gathered on penitent knee,
Accept the hymns we chant unto Thy glory,
and these Thy gifts we return unto Thee!

- English text by Harold Heiberg

† Doxology Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† Prayer for Illumination Nancy Bates

Divine Light, shine on these pages that the stories may speak again to us today. Shine on our hearts that we might know how to respond. Amen.

† Gospel Lesson | *Matthew 18:15-20* NRSV

You have heard the ancient story.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Chris Brown

Confession & Words of Assurance

When we cease from human thought a low and effective cunning stirs in the most inhuman minds. The divine love, incarnate and indwelling in the world, summons the world always toward wholeness, which ultimately is reconciliation and atonement with God. Let us now offer our confession.

Gracious and merciful God, we who prayed and wept for liberty from kings and the yoke of liberty accept the tyranny of things we do not need. In plentitude too free, we have become adept beneath the yoke of greed. We know that those who will not learn in plenty to keep their place must learn it by their need when they have had their way and the fields spurn their seed. We have failed thy Grace. Lord, we flinch and pray, send thy necessity.
Friends, God loves the world. The world was created and approved by love, that it subsists, coheres, and endures by love, and that, insofar as it is redeemable, it can be redeemed only by love.

In Christ we are redeemed and forgiven. Amen.

- adapt. Wendell Berry, "We who prayed and wept," "Leavings," & "The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays"

Holy Communion

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: You give food to those who are hungry, set prisoners free, help the oppressed, and watch over the vulnerable among us.

Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Sanctus & Benedictus | *The Hymnal*, p. 17, Musical Setting A

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Savior…

And so, remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast and proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation | *The Hymnal*, p. 18, Musical Setting A

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us…

Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.

Great Amen | *The Hymnal*, p. 18, Musical Setting A

The Lord's Prayer

> **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.**

† Sharing the Bread & Cup

The table is not a Munsey Memorial table nor is it a United Methodist table.
It is Christ's open table of grace and welcome; therefore, all are invited.

Sending Forth

† Hymn, No. 89 | *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* — Hymn to Joy

† Benediction — Chris Brown

Postlude | *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* — arr. Benjamin M. Culli (b. 1977)

All are invited to stay or depart during the Postlude.
When departing, do so quietly to show respect to the musician(s)
and those who wish to remain.

† *Indicates the people standing in body or in spirit.*
While a sign of reverence, standing is optional.
We want to maintain an inclusive worship experience for all.

Cover Art | *The Embrace of Peter and Paul* (1640) –
Konstantinos Paleokapas (ca.1600-after 1640)

Participants

Rev. Chris Brown, *Senior Pastor*
Amanda Onks, *Executive Director of Programs & Ministries*
Justin Boazman, *Director of Music & Congregational Life*
Matthew Brickey, *Organist & Music Associate*
The Chancel Choir
Nancy Bates, *Lay Reader*
Allan J. Cole, *Crucifer*
Darcey McCarter, *Acolyte*
Audrey Greenway, *Acolyte*

All are welcome.

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are ***all*** participants in the story of God's work in the world.

Each service is open for ***all*** to fully participate. When Holy Communion is shared, ***all*** are invited to participate regardless of church or denominational affiliation. The table is not ours but God's. It is an open table of welcome and grace where ***all*** are invited – even children.

Children are especially welcome in our worship experiences, either in part or in full. The closer they are to the front, the more they are likely to see and experience. A nursery is available, and, for those who might find it helpful, the worship service can be viewed on the video monitor in the Parlor.

For assistance with listening devices and/or large print hymnals, please see an usher.

Listen EVERYWHERE
FROM LISTEN TECHNOLOGIES

To use the ListenEverywhere *app:*
Scan the QR code & follow the instructions:
Connect to the WiFi network: ListenMunsey (*password:* listen01)

love boldly + serve joyfully + lead courageously

Missions

Melting Pot | Looking to serve our community on Saturday and Sunday mornings? Join in the fun of our Missions Ministries by serving in the Melting Pot.

Contact: Anthony Jackson, *anthony.jackson@munsey.org*

Music & Worship Arts

Worship Arts | Our Children's Worship Arts program is starting soon! Come be an integral part of our children's spiritual growth by helping with Worship Arts through leading visual art activities or guiding from session to session. See the link online for more information.

Contact: Justin Boazman, *justin.boazman@munsey.org*

Munsey Memorial

United Methodist Church

Order of Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026
Sanctuary + 11:00 a.m.