



SUMMER WORSHIP
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER

June 22, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Anderson Auditorium

Welcome to Summer Worship in Montreat.

In the printed order of worship,

asterisks * invite us to rise in spirit or body;

words in bold are for all to say or sing;

and congregational songs are found in the pew hymnal, *Glory to God*

GATHERING

*The Song of Zechariah

Luke 1:67-72, 78-79

Blessed be the Great I AM,
the God of Israel,
who has come to set the beloved people free.
The Almighty has raised up for us
a mighty Savior from the house of David.

A great prophet has risen among us!
God has come to dwell with us!

Through the holy prophets,
the Holy One promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us;
to show mercy to our forebears
and to remember the holy covenant.

A great prophet has arisen among us!
God has come to dwell with us!

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

A great prophet has arisen among us!
God has come to dwell with us!

Early in Luke's gospel, when Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist, Zechariah's voice is freed in a song of praise for the arriving dawn of God's power and mercy. This canticle has become part of the Morning Prayer liturgy and helps call us to worship today.

*Hymn 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD

*Confession and Pardon

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Trust the good news!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

*Peace

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

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Luke 7:1-17

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Essential Work"

The Reverend Shannon Kershner

RESPONDING

*Hymn 610 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
*choir singing Spanish and Korean,
then all singing English*

AZMON

Like "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," this hymn by Charles Wesley tells of the healing love and new life that bear witness to Christ's saving power. Its evocation of tongues encompasses many voices as well as multiple languages.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to which to cling,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found with full humanity
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.

**Therefore God also highly exalted Jesus
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess,
to the glory of the Creator,
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Prayers of the People

Offerings

It's been a long dark night,
and I've been waiting for the morning.
It's been a long, hard fight,
but I see a brand new day a-dawning.
I've been looking for the sunshine 'cause I ain't seen it in so long.
Everything's gonna work out fine.
Everything's gonna be alright – it's gonna be okay.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
I can see the light of a brand new day.

Dolly Parton
arr. C. H. Johnson

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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 debts as we forgive debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The great hymn of Christ's servanthood and exaltation, from the second chapter of the letter to the Philippians, is the basis for our Affirmation.

This tender and stirring song by Dolly Parton looks to new life and a new day. We hear it in an arrangement by Craig Hella Johnson.

The Lord's Prayer may be said in any wording or language of the heart.

SENDING

*Hymn 301 Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

*Benediction and Charge

*Hymn 549 May the Love of the Lord
cantors singing Mandarin,
then all singing English

SOON TI

Two songs help send us out. One is Marty Haugen's magnificent hymn of work and welcome – a "house hymn" on many levels. The other is a setting of the Aaronic Blessing by Swee Hong Lim and Maria Ling Poh Choo.

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Assisting in Worship:

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Summer Singers