



SUMMER WORSHIP
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER

June 28, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
Anderson Auditorium

GATHERING

*Introit

Orlando Juarez, composer

Welcome into this place; welcome into this broken vessel;
you desire to abide in the praises of your people,
so we lift our hands, and we lift our hearts
as we offer up this praise unto your name.

This strong song is an invocation, welcoming God's presence in our midst. Bidding us to lift hearts and hands, it recalls the table grace we say at Communion.

*Call to Worship

Ps. 122, adapt.

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Zion.

Pray for the peace of this place.
May they prosper who love you.

Pray for the peace of every place.
May there be wholeness for all.

For the sake of all God's people
I will say, "Peace be with you."
For the sake of the house of the Lord I will seek your good.

*Hymn 375 Shall We Gather at the River

SHALL WE GATHER

*Confession and Pardon

silent prayers

Holy One, have mercy on us.
You created us in your own image,
but we hurt and dishonor one another.
You planted us in a garden of good things
but we exploit and abuse the earth.
You gave us your word to guide us,
but we sin and fall short of your glory.

Forgive us, God of grace.
**Clothe us in your righteousness,
fill us with the fruit of your Spirit,
and send us forth in your service,
that we may be a source of healing
in this world you love so much;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Text: David Gambrell,
2026; written for the
227th General Assembly
of the PC(USA).

all singing:

**Come, beloved, to the river, where the Lord has made a way:
here the Savior will deliver through the night to endless day.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

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

*Peace

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

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Exodus 23:4-9; Matthew 10:40-42

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "A Worthy Welcome"

The Reverend Doug Hicks

RESPONDING

Anthem Crowded Table

Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna
Brandi Carlisle

You can hold my hand when you need to let go.
I can be a mountain when you're feeling valley low.
I can be a streetlight showing you the way home,
if you hold my hand when you need to let go.

*I want a house with a crowded table, and a place by the fire for everyone.
Let us take on the world while we're young and able,
and bring us back together when the day is done.*

If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed,
plant a little happiness, let the roots run deep.
If it's love that we give, then it's love that we reap.
If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seeds.
The door is always open, your picture's on the wall;
everyone's a little broken, and everyone belongs.

*I want a house with a crowded table, and a place by the fire for everyone.
Let us take on the world, for we all are able,
and bring us back together when the day is done.*

This well-loved song is one of belonging and space. Its ordinary images of home, such as garden, pictures, and door, express the sense of friendship offered.

Prayers of the People

*Hymn For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For those we ne - glect, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For all who have breath, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a cov - e - nant shared, a wel - com - ing space,
to live with - out fear and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkl - ed,
a rain - bow of race and gen - der and co - lor,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for those we neg - lect, the right to be - long,
for all who have breath, the cha - lice of grace,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



and God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

This hymn's original version is found in *Glory to God*, Hymn 769. The text, by Shirley Erena Murray, came into being in 1998 and was then a bold hymn of inclusion and has remained well-loved and well-sung. It is an example of a truly living hymn, having undergone revisions by its author and others in response to expanding demands of hospitality. This revision is by Dan Damon, written in 2022. The tune, by Brian Mann, is one of many created for these words.

Original text by Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Company; revised text by Dan Damon © 2022 Hope Publishing Co. Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik); OneLicense A716815.

Offerings

At the River

adapted by Aaron Copland

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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.**

SENDING

*Hymn 831 I Depend Upon Your Faithfulness

TU FIDELIDAD

*Benediction and Charge

*Hymn 549 May the Love of the Lord
*cantor in Mandarin,
then all in English*

SOON TI

*Voluntary Great Day!

arr. Adolphus Hailstork

Assisting in worship today:

James Blackwelder, Summer Ministry Team

Richard DuBose, President, Montreat Conference Center

The Reverend Dr. Douglas A. Hicks, President of Davidson College

Mary Katherine Robinson, Pastor, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

Summer Singers

Daphne Waggener, Montreat Communications, violin/viola

Eric Wall, Conference Center Musician

Sources:

Much of today's liturgy is drawn from "Gathering in the City," a collection of worship resources prepared for the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which has been meeting in committees online this past week and convenes in plenary in Milwaukee, WI, this afternoon. The theme of this General Assembly is "Persevering Toward Wholeness." Presbyterian churches in Milwaukee are using these worship resources as they welcome General Assembly participants this morning, and Presbyterian congregations throughout the country have been invited join with them in prayer and worship.

American composer Aaron Copland called this version of the hymn an "adaptation." It is in the freshness of harmony that a beloved song takes on an added breadth of expression.

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

Two songs help send us out; both evoke the Exodus journey from today's first reading. Hymn 831 places trust in the faithfulness of God who leads us; Hymn 549 sets the blessing of Aaron, brother of Moses—a blessing claimed by countless generations.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from the *Book of Common Worship*; © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.