



SUMMER WORSHIP
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER

July 5, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
Anderson Auditorium

Welcome to Summer Worship in Montreat.

Asterisks (*) invite us to rise in spirit or body.

Words in bold are for all to say or sing.

Congregational songs are found in the pew hymnal, *Glory to God*, or this order of worship.

Communion is celebrated in worship today – the table is open to all.

We receive the gift of bread and cup by exiting pews to the left.

and coming forward to meet the servers at the end of the aisle.

When you receive bread, dip it in the cup, then return to the opposite side of the pew.

All bread is gluten-free; all cups contain grape juice.

Servers will be present throughout the auditorium and will bring the elements to you if you desire.

GATHERING

*Greeting and Gathering Prayer

2 Corinthians 13:14; Psalm 124:8

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

*Hymn 643 Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Confession and Pardon

God, by your grace,
forgive us.

silent prayers

For all we should be and all we can amend,
may God renew us.

For all God has in store for us and may demand of us,
may God prepare us.

To the life of the world and the love of its people,
may God commit us.

Friends, believe the gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

On this Communion Sunday, our first hymn is one that originated as a table grace in the midst of war. It offers a prayer not only of gratitude but also for guidance.

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 5:22-6:7

Scripture Matthew 11:2-6

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "What Story Will We Live By?"

The Reverend Ben Dorr

*Affirmation

**This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

(Hymn 337)

God of all people...

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**My country, 'tis of thee,
sweet land of liberty,
of thee I sing:
land where my **fathers* died, **or "parents"*
land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountain-side, let freedom ring.**

God of liberation...

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Let music swell the breeze,
and ring from all the trees
sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake;
let all that breathes partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.**

God of the prophets and of our ancestors...

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Our **fathers'* God, to thee,
author of liberty,
to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright
with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King.**

Holy God, hear our prayers...

We make these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ,
who proclaimed the coming of your realm,
and who taught us to pray,

**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.**

The hymn that is part of the Prayers of the People is itself a prayer—a prayer for a nation rather than a paean to the nation. Its layers of meaning and history include the 1963 March on Washington, where the ending of its first stanza became a powerful refrain in Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Offerings

Piano voluntary: Lift Every Voice and Sing

arr. M. Roger Holland II

*Hymn 339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

EUCCHARIST

*Invitation to the Table

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We do give you our thanks and praise,
Almighty and Everlasting God...

Take this bread and this cup, O God –
a feast of grace.
take our hearts and our lives, O God –
an offering of praise.

Pour out your Spirit, O God,
to come and dwell...
...in your eternal realm of peace and light.
**Blessing and glory,
wisdom and thanksgiving,
honor and power,
be to you, O Triune God,
forever and ever!
Amen.**

This hymn was written by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamund Johnson for a school celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. It has come to be known as the Black National Anthem, and its language of lament, liberation, hope, and faith makes it a powerful prayer.

Breaking, Pouring, and Serving

Anthem: Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton
arr. C. H. Johnson

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.

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

*Hymn 79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

*Benediction and Charge

*Voluntary Now Thank We All Our God

J. S. Bach

This hymn of Biblical imagery sings of a divine future breaking into our present. Its tune of repetition and contrast makes it singable and inspiring.

Assisting in worship:

Meredith Welfare, Summer Staff

Richard DuBose, President, Montreat Conference Center

The Reverend Ben Dorr, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Mary Wall, Summer Staff

The Reverend Marti Reed Hazelrigg, VP for Development, Montreat Conference Center

The Reverend Bob Tuttle, Parish Associate, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

Summer Singers

Eric Wall, Conference Center Musician

Sources:

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted or adapted by permission from the *Book of Common Worship*; © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. The Gathering Prayer is adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer* (1979) of The Episcopal Church, p. 258. The Invitation to Offering is adapted from *Connections Worship Companion*, Year C, Volume 1, p. 190; © 2021, Westminster John Knox Press.