



SUMMER WORSHIP
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER

July 26, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
Anderson Auditorium

GATHERING

*Call to Worship

Psalm 24:1-6

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world and those who dwell in it.
**For the Almighty One has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's holy place?
**Those of innocent hands and purity of heart,
who do not swear on God's being,
nor do they pledge by what is false.**

They shall receive blessing from the Most High,
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.
**Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

*Hymn 275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

*Confession and Pardon

Isaiah 43:2; Col. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:17

Sovereign God,
in baptism you called us to turn from sin
and to turn to Jesus Christ;
but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death
that we might be raised with Christ in new life;
but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life
of righteousness, justice, and love.

Silence.

Martin Luther's great hymn sounds the praise of God, the presence of Jesus in struggle, and the Spirit whose gifts carry us.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
In baptism you empower us ministry in all realms of life;
but we refuse the struggle to know your will.
We do not nurture the ways of peace.
We live in discord with all you made.

Silence.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

Remember the promises you made to us in our baptism,
forgive our sinful ways
and heal our brokenness.
Set us free from all that enslaves us,
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ,
that we may be your faithful servants,
showing forth your healing love to the world,
to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 582

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

*Peace

Psalm 85:10

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
justice and peace will kiss one other.
The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 380 Psalm 46 – God Is Our Help, Refuge, and Strength
refrain sung in Korean by cantor,
then in English by all

Psalm 46 (the basis of Luther's "A Mighty Fortress") comes to us here in a plaintive sung refrain and a responsive reading. As in today's reading from Genesis, the river is a potent image of

Anthem

Charles Wesley
tune: YE BANKS AND BRAES

Come, O thou Traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see!
My company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee.
With thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day;

I need not tell thee who I am, my misery and sin declare;
thyselves hast called me by my name, look on thy hands and read it there.
But who, I ask thee, who art thou? Tell me thy name, and tell me now.

Yield to me now, for I am weak, but confident in self-despair!
Speak to my heart, in blessing speak, be conquered by my instant prayer.
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move, and tell me if thy name is Love.

'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me, I hear thy whisper in my heart.
The morning breaks, the shadows flee, pure, Universal Love thou art.
To me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is Love.

Scripture Genesis 32:22-31

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon “At the Jabbok’s Edge” The Reverend Emily Rose Proctor

RESPONDING

Anthem

Gayle Salmond, composer

I bind unto myself today the gift to call on the Trinity;
the saving faith where I can say, come Three-in-One, O One-in-Three.

*Be above me as high as the noonday sun.
Be below me the rock I set my feet upon.
Be beside me the wind on my left and right.
Be behind me, O circle me with your truth and light.*

I bind unto myself today the love of angels and seraphim;
the prayers and prophecies of saints,
the words and deeds of righteous friends.

Against all powers deceiving,
against my own unbelieving,
whether near or far.

This hymn text is considered a pinnacle of Charles Wesley’s craft (these are four stanzas out of many more). In lyrical and powerful poetry, he gives us the story in Genesis 32. The Scottish tune is paired with this text in The United Methodist Hymnal.

This lively song sets parts of the ancient text known as *St. Patrick’s Breastplate*. The poet is putting on the strength and presence of God like a garment, clothed in the surrounding Divine Presence. It echoes Biblical texts like Ephesians 6: “Put on the whole armor of God...pray in the Spirit at all times...keep alert and always persevere.”

I bind unto myself today the hope to rise from the dust of earth;
the songs of nations giving praise to Maker, Spirit, Living Word.

Prayers of the People

*Hymn 797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal YE BANKS AND BRAES

Offerings

"...the peace may be exchanged..."

Dan Locklair, composer

*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.**

SENDING

*Hymn 747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth ENVIADO
*choir singing Spanish,
then all singing English*

*Benediction and Charge

*Voluntary A Mighty Fortress Johann Pachelbel, composer

Sources

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Assisting in Worship

Richard DuBose, President, Montreat Conference Center
The Reverend Keith Grogg, Pastor, Montreat Presbyterian Church
The Reverend Emily Rose Proctor, Supply Associate Pastor,

Wrestling's physicality finds counterparts in this hymn: Christ's hands that heal, the touch of friends, and the concluding prayer: "to disentangle peace from pain." The sharing of that peace is evoked in the offering music.

Jacob struggles with an angel in Genesis, then goes forth. This hymn includes a compelling echo: "The angels are not sent into our world of pain to do what we were meant to do..."

First Presbyterian Church, Greer, South Carolina

[Summer Staffer when confirmed]

Summer Singers

Daphne Waggener, violinist; Montreat Communications Department

Eric Wall, Conference Center Musician

Meredith Welfare, Summer Staff