

THE WORSHIP JOURNAL

September 7, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

People: Wherever we go, God knows our name.

Leader: Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

People: Whatever we do, God knows our name.

Leader: However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you.

People: However we live, God knows our name.

Leader: We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

People: We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name!



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OPENING HYMN: This Is a Day of New Beginnings (UMH 383)

1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

5 In faith we'll gather round the table
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.



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PRAYER HYMN: Take My Life, and Let It Be (UMH 399)

1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

2. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

3. Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.



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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. Amen



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RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 139:1-8, 13-18

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

People: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it all together.

Leader: You pursue me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

Leader: Whither shall I go from your spirit?

People: Or whither shall I flee from your presence?

Leader: It was you who formed my inward parts,

People: you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Leader: I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.

People: Wonderful are your works!

Leader: You know me very well;

People: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

Leader: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;

People: in your book were written the days that were formed for me, every day, before they came into being.

Leader: How profound to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

People: If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with you.



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GOSPEL READING – Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.



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HOLY COMMUNION

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.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. By your Spirit, help us to love you above all else. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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CLOSING HYMN: Forth in Thy Name, O Lord (UMH 438)

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.

2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.

3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labor on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.

4. For thee delightfully employ
what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

God of new beginnings and second chances. Your son, Jesus the Christ walked beside the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. In their sense of loss and confusion, you guided their minds and hearts. Guide us now as we journey down this path. Breakthrough our inability to see and open our eyes that we may recognize your presence and set our hearts to burning with passion for your mission and the future you are leading us into.

