

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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I Can Pray

September 6, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Pam Stearns

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **We come, ready to pray honestly!**

Leader: Pray without ceasing!

People: **We will pray, trusting in God's will!**

Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

(verses 1, 2, and 4)

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -



Opening Prayer

Dear God, thank you for reminding us that we can always come to you in prayer. When we are happy, we can pray. When we are sad, we can pray. When we are afraid, worried, or don't know what to do, we can pray. Thank you for showing us through Jesus that we don't have to hide our feelings from you, but can bring everything to you and trust you with it. Help us to listen for your voice, trust your plan, and remember that no matter what we face, we never have to face it alone. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Pastor's Preview

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Holy Ground

This is holy ground, we're standing on holy ground,
 For the Lord is here and where He is, is holy. *(repeat)*

These are holy hands, He's given us holy hands,
 He works through these hands and so these hands are holy. *(repeat)*

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 26: 36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

I Can Pray

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Meditation on "Bread of Life"

Jack C. Goode

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 7](#) of this document.

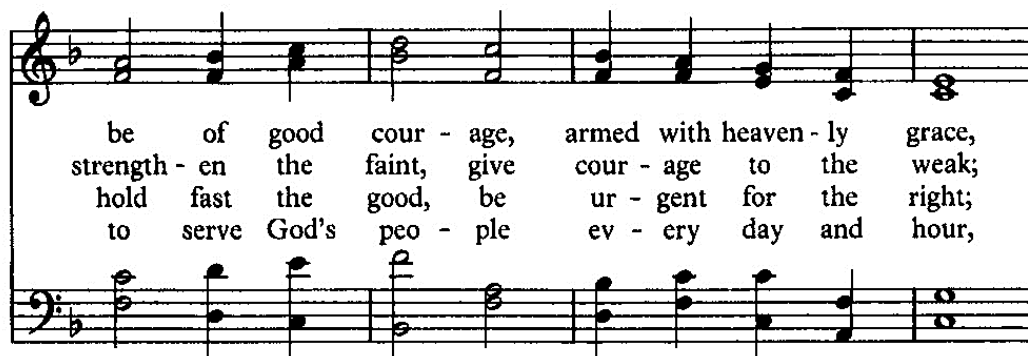
Hymn

Go Forth For God

(verses 1, 2, and 4)



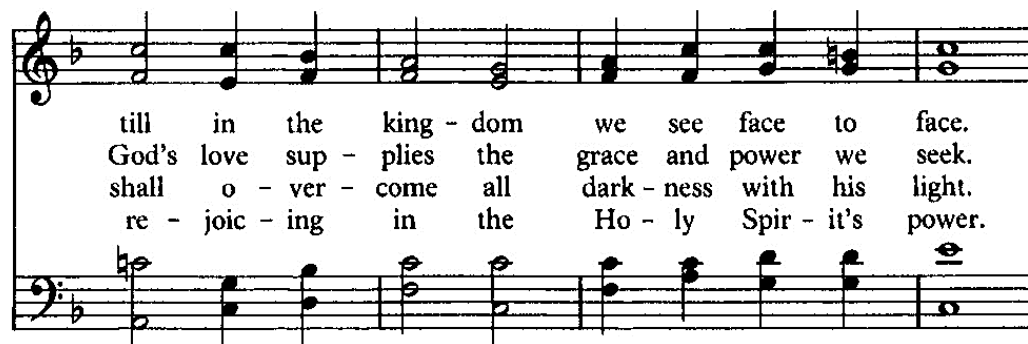
1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,



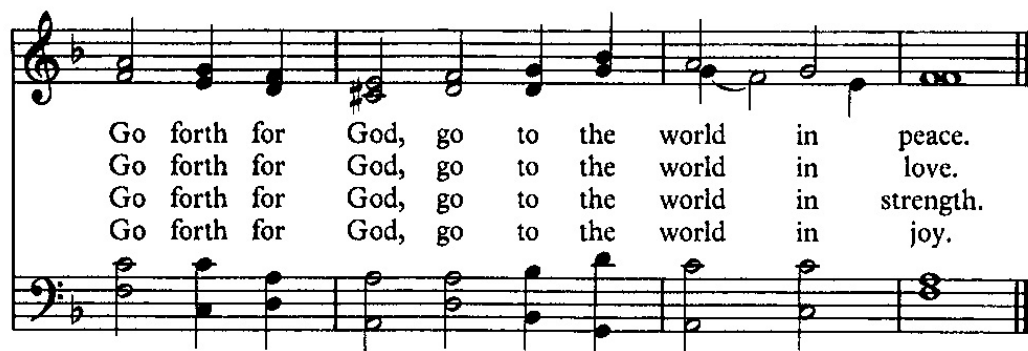
be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
 strength - en the faint, give cour - age to the weak;
 hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right;
 to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,



in God's good Spir - it dai - ly to in - crease,
 help the af - flict - ed; rich - ly from a - bove
 ren - der to no one e - vil; Christ at length
 and serv - ing Christ, our ev - ery gift em - ploy,



till in the king - dom we see face to face.
 God's love sup - plies the grace and power we seek.
 shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his light.
 re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's power.



Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

The musical score consists of two staves, a treble staff and a bass staff, both in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in D

Gustav Merkel

A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
 power and might. Heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - - -
 - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
 est! Blest is the one who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: 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:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup