

Worship for the September 8, 2026 Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley

(Drawing on worship texts, the season of Creation, individual stories, and Colombia Partnership.)

Hymns from The Presbyterian Hymnal (blue)

Liturgy reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

*Please rise in body or spirit

***Congregation reads bold type**

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

Ps. 23:1; John 10:14-16

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd

He lays down his life for his sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He knows us, and we belong to him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

***Hymn of Praise**

Earth and Stars

458

***Call to Confession**

1 John 3:20

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession** (unison)

1 John 3:16-24

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)

1 John 3:15, 21-22

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

Scripture Reading

John 10:11-15

Message

God, My Shepherd

Rev. Josh Rodriguez

***Hymn of Affirmation**

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

172

Prayers of the People

Ps. 23:6; 1 John 3:21-24

With boldness, let us offer our prayers to the shepherd of our souls, saying,
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church in every place . . . Gather us together and make us one, one in
ministry and mission to the world, so that there will be one flock, one shepherd.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world . . . Anoint all leaders with your wisdom so that they will
use their power to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . . Strengthen those who work each day to heal the sick,
welcome the outcasts, and help others in need.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for friends and loved ones . . . Comfort all who are suffering; walk with them
through dark valleys and restore the, body, mind, and soul.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit, help us to keep your commandments and to love
one another with the love of Jesus, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.
God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Liturgy for Receiving a Candidate

Affirmation of Faith from The Confession at Belhar (portions of section 2)

2. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from
the entire human family. We believe

- that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the
community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
- that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ;
that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality
which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must
continually be built up to attain;

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Words of Institution

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts.

We open them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, Our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you thanks, All-Loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth.

When there was nothing, you created all that is. In due time you made for humans to evolve and gave us the power of language. When we felt the sting of the lash, you liberated us. When we were lost and our souls were faint, you led us home through prophets and apostles. When the time was right, you sent your Son to embody your promise to save us.

Therefore we praise you, joining the everlasting chorus of the wind and the streams, the animals and flowers, the living and the dead, the stars and the planets, and all the company of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of sovereignty and light, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We are grateful for Jesus the Christ, who teaches and heals us and becomes the way for us, through his dying and his rising, that we may die through him and rise through him into a new heaven and a new earth.

We are grateful that on the night before he died, he took bread and, after giving thanks for it, broke it and shared it with his companions, saying, Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. We are grateful that, after the meal was ended, he took the cup and passed it to them, as it is now being passed on to us, and said, Take this cup and drink from it, all of you – for this is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you.

Now when you eat and drink of this, remember me.

We remember Jesus as we share this meal, one in the Spirit.

God, bless these simple gifts of the earth – this bread and this cup – that they may become for us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, Christ's presence with us, transforming us into the body of Christ in the world.

May this meal inspire and strengthen us to love you, each other, and this world until Christ comes again and brings all things to their fulfillment.

All glory and honor are yours, Holy One, through Christ, in the Spirit, now and always.
Amen.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer Following Communion

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life. We give you thanks. Help us who have shared this meal today, to be Christ's faithful disciples so that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom. Send us into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope)

432

Benediction

John 10:11; Psalm 23:6

In the name of the good shepherd, love one another.

May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life, and at your life's end, may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever! Amen.