

Order of Worship for September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Hybrid Worship



Ayibiowu Olusola David | "Wisdom"

We Approach God

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Votum, Sentences, and Salutation

Prelude: Allemande from Partita #2 by J.S. Bach

Jason Kass, violinist

Call to Worship (responsive)

from *Ministry Matters*

One: How shall we live in the love of God?

All: We will treat one another with fairness and dignity.

One: How shall we witness God's forgiving love?

All: We will reach out others with compassion.

One: Come, let us worship God who has always loved us.

All: Let our worship of God be reflected in our lives of hope and peace.

*Gathering Hymn: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" (#417)

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

from *Ministry Matters*

Merciful Lord, we like to think that we do everything well. We pat ourselves on the back when we act with love and mercy toward others, complimenting ourselves in self-righteousness. But you know us better. You know our faults and our failings. You know when we falsely proclaim that we are truly living as you would have us live. Teach us again about your forgiving and healing love. Show us ways of merciful living that we may extend the love and mercy you have given us to others. Forgive us, we pray. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Kyrie (#572):

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance

Summary of the Law of Love

*Gloria Patri (#579):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, amen.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-10

Children's Message

Sermon: "Ground Rules"

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn of Response: "Come Down, O Love Divine" (#313)

Affirmation of Faith: The UCC Statement of Faith

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,
who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,
and to whose deeds we testify:**

**God calls the worlds into being,
creates humankind in the divine image,
and sets before us the ways of life and death.**

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared
through prophets and apostles.**

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,

**God has come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.**

**God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**God calls us into the church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be servants in the service of the whole human family,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**God promises to all who trust in the gospel
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to the Offering

Offerings may be made virtually in three ways:

- Electronic transfer using Zelle to frc1850@aol.com
- Online giving at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1289239>
- Checks made out to First Reformed Church may be mailed to 18 Farragut Ave.,
Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706

Offertory: "Tunnel" by J. Kass

Jason Kass, violinist

*Doxology (#592):

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Communion Liturgy

The Meaning of the Sacrament

Invitation

The first time Jesus sat down to this meal, among those gathered there were one who would doubt him, one who would deny him, one who would betray him, and they would all leave him alone before that night was over – and he knew it. Still, he sat down and ate with them. If he ate with them, surely he’s ready to eat with us. You don’t have to be perfect. You don’t have to be sure. You don’t have to be a member of this church. You don’t have to be a saint. All you have to be to eat at this table is hungry.

God will do the rest.

Communion Prayer

adapted in part from a liturgy by Rev. Mary Luti

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

How right it is to praise you, gracious God, for in the beginning, when the world was fresh from your hand, you made us neighbors — one people in many kinds — and lavished on us pleasures too many to name or know! For you we were a sheer delight. For each other, helpers and friends. And so you entrusted to us your justice and your joy. But we kept them for a few and denied them to many, creating worlds of poverty and pain. And so we broke each other’s hearts. But you did not reject us. In the fullness of time you gave us Jesus, full of grace and truth. By his ministry of grace and mercy, love and justice, you restored us to each other and to you, mending our hearts and repairing the world. And by his Spirit you impel us even now to be for each other what he is for us — pardon and peace, blessing and delight. For all your gifts, we thank you! And with everything that lives under, on, and above the world, we give you glory, and we praise your name!

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray (*the prayer continues...*) Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Communion

We receive the elements.

Thanksgiving after Communion

adapted from a liturgy by Rev. Mary Luti

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the glory of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this Holy Communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Our time of prayer concludes with 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 our 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.**

*Closing Hymn: "Lord, Make Us More Holy" (#536)

*Blessing and Benediction

*Musical Benediction: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by Peter Lutkin (insert)

Those attending in person are invited to the Fraser Room for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Those attending via Zoom are invited to unmute for "virtual coffee hour."

*Congregants in the sanctuary are invited to rise

Bold text is read in unison

Announcements

Thanks to all who are assisting with the service today! Our lector/liturgist is Prema Samuel. Our musicians are music director Trish Waters and guest violinist Jason Kass.

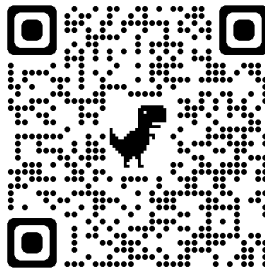
The next **Consistory meeting** will take place on Sunday, September 13, at 12pm via Zoom.

Blessing of the Backpacks: On Sunday, September 13, we'll recognize the beginning of a new school year. Students are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special "Blessing of the Backpacks" liturgy. All are welcome, so please spread the word!

Sunday School is on hiatus for the summer. It will resume on Sunday, September 27.

Considering Membership? In September, we'll hold an informal gathering for any visitors and friends who are interested in considering making FRC your official church home! You're welcome to attend whether you're a brand-new visitor or have been attending for years. Please let Pastor Emily know if you'd like to take part by emailing revemilybrown@gmail.com

For more information about First Reformed Church, scan this QR code to go to www.frchoh.org



Clergy: The Rev. Emily M. Brown

First Reformed Church Staff:

Trish Waters, Office Administrator & Music Director

Hanna Skaskiv, Sexton

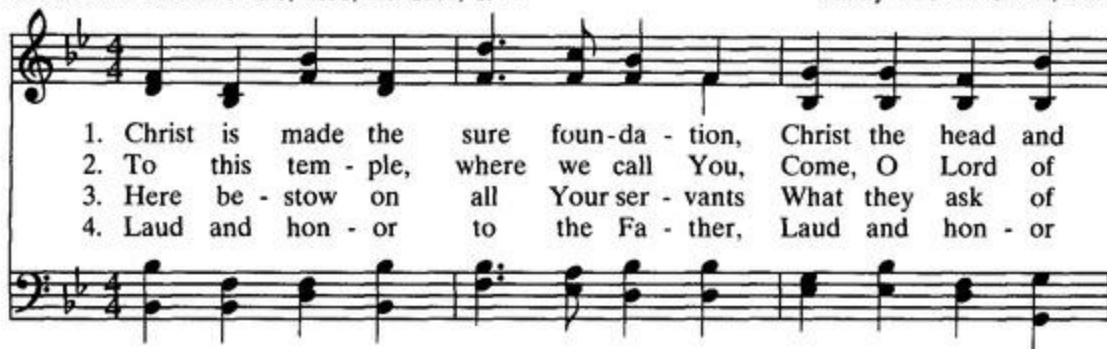
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 417

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

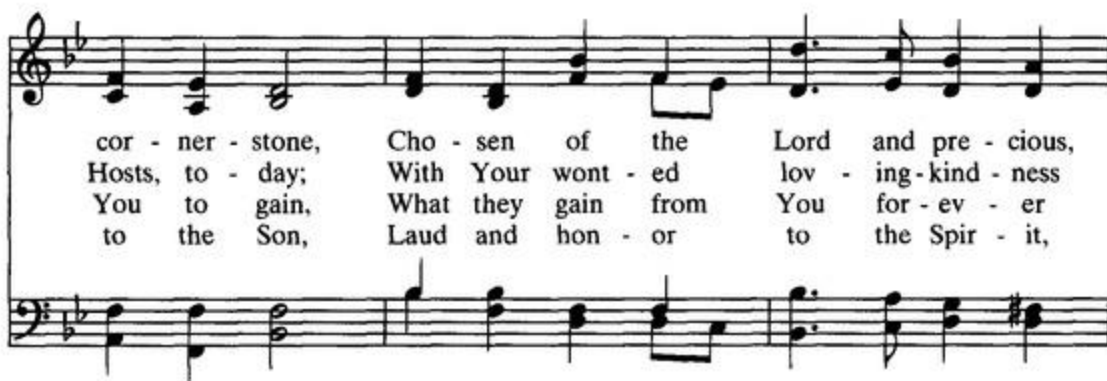
7th century, Latin

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972

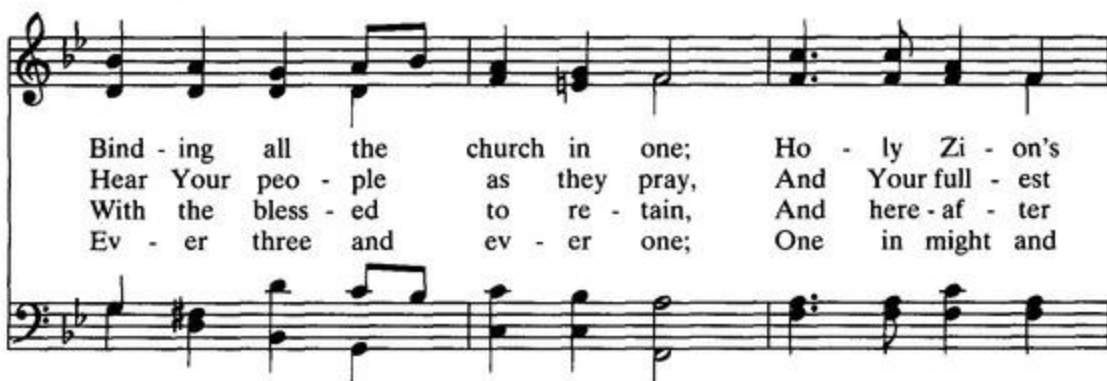
Henry Thomas Smart, 1867



1. Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
 3. Here be - stow on all Your ser - vants What they ask of
 4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 Hosts, to - day; With Your wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 You to gain, What they gain from You for - ev - er
 to the Son, Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
 Hear Your peo - ple as they pray, And Your full - est
 With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - af - ter
 Ev - er three and ev - er one; One in might and



help for - ev - er, And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run.

313

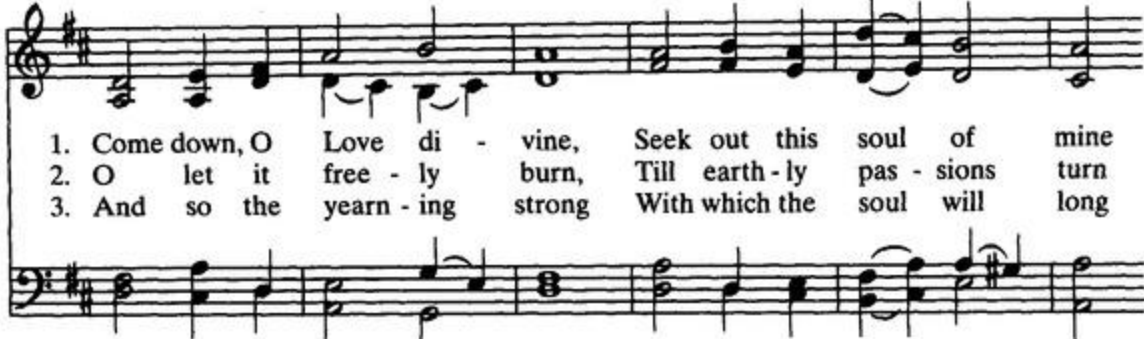
Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11 D

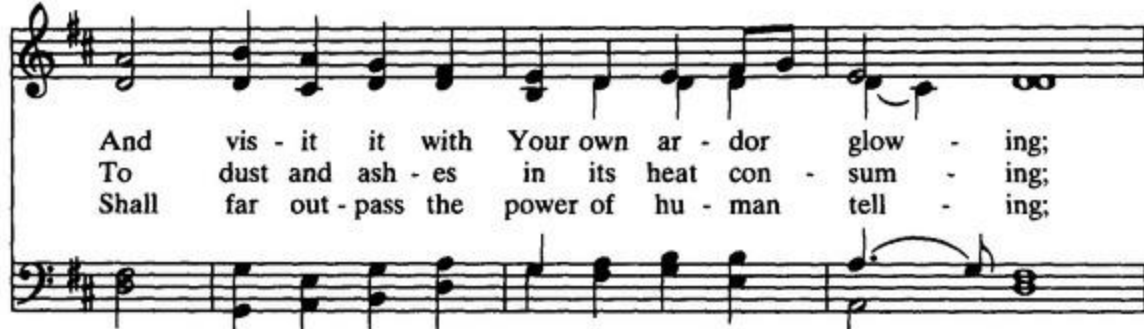
Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867; alt.

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek out this soul of mine
 2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3. And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul will long



And vis - it it with Your own ar - dor glow - ing;
 To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 Shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let Your glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, Till Love cre - ates a place



And kin - dle it, Your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

536

Lord, Make Us More Holy

6.6.6.6.6.6

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual



1. Lord, make us more ho - ly, Lord, make us more ho - ly,
 2. Lord, make us more lov - ing, Lord, make us more lov - ing,
 3. Lord, make us more pa - tient, Lord, make us more pa - tient,
 4. Lord, make us more faith - ful, Lord, make us more faith - ful,

CLOSING HYMNS



Lord, make us more ho - ly, Un - til we meet a - gain.
 Lord, make us more lov - ing, Un - til we meet a - gain.
 Lord, make us more pa - tient, Un - til we meet a - gain.
 Lord, make us more faith - ful, Un - til we meet a - gain.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Un - til we meet a - gain.
 Lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, Un - til we meet a - gain.
 Pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, Un - til we meet a - gain.
 Faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, Un - til we meet a - gain.

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

Numbers 6:24-26

Music by
PETER C. LUTKIN

$\text{♩} = 80$

C Dm7/F G7 C Am Am/C

The Lord bless you and keep — you; the Lord lift His coun - te-nance up -

p *cresc.*

G/D D G A7/G Dm7/F G7/F C/E G7/D

on — you, and give you peace, and give you peace; The

decresc.

C C/G G#dim7 Am F C/E C7/E F

Lord, make His face to shine up - on — you, and be gra - cious un - to you, be gra - cious.

cresc. *decresc.*

 Musicnotes

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Optional ending (single Amen)

C7/E A7 Dm C/G G7 C F C

The Lord be gra-cious, gra-cious un - to you. A - men.

p *dim e rit.*