



# **A Joint Worship Service in Pioneer Park**



**with the Bethel Lutheran Church and  
the First Presbyterian Church of Portville**

**Sunday, August 16, 2026**



**Christa, Lutheran Guest Speaker  
Diana, Liturgist  
Courtney, Keyboard**

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Worship in the Park

*\*Please stand, if you are able.*

***Come together as one body of Christ...***

*Friends and neighbors...as we gather... introduce yourselves to one another ... set your chairs near each other as we wait the coming of His spirit to lead us...*

Leader: Good morning! Welcome to all who have come here today to worship our Lord and fellowship as one.

Remain seated as we read the following unison scripture as found in your bulletin...

**UNISON READING**

*Genesis 45:1 – 5*

- <sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine on us—***
- <sup>2</sup>so that, God, your ways may be known on earth,  
your salvation among all nations.***
- <sup>3</sup>May the peoples praise you, God;  
may all the people praise you.***
- <sup>4</sup>May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you rule the people with equity  
and guide the nations of the earth.***
- <sup>5</sup>May the people praise you, God;  
may all the people praise you.***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Join me in the call to worship...

Hear the words from Psalm 100: 5 "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever..."

**People: his faithfulness continues through all generations."**

Leader: "The Lord is good," sings the Psalmist as his heart flowed with these words from his pen!

**People: An ageless affirmation of God's hand upon our lives; open and welcoming; secure in its keeping.**

Leader: Together we claim this goodness... letting it rest in our own hearts, stir in our minds and then spill out in our grateful thanksgiving!

**People: The overflowing abundance we have in this life that we know in the company of God and one another... Oh yes, it is so good!**

Leader: Join in singing the hymn printed in the bulletin

**\* "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"**

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

*Chorus*

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;

*Continued on the next page...*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our  
land. *Chorus*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's  
pride. *Chorus*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. *Chorus*

### *An invitation to confession...*

Leader: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive  
ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess  
our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us  
our sins." *1 John 1:8 – 9*

Pray with me the prayer of confession found in the  
bulletin and follow it with your own silent personal  
confessions. Let us pray...

### **\*CORPORATE CONFESSION (Unison)**

**In the harmony of song, you gather us in  
worship, Dear God. Let hearts melt and the  
distances between us disappear. May the  
oneness of mind and spirit in Christ unite us  
with you, Lord, and with one another. We  
confess that we do not love with our whole**

hearts or seek your ways. We stand humbly before you, seeking your forgiveness. By your Spirit, expand this worship into the daily living as we seek to be one with you in all we do. We pray in Christ's Name. Amen. *(continue with your personal silent prayers...)*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**The Passing of the Peace...**

Leader: Today, let us stand and greet one another sharing with each other the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We will return to our seats singing the spiritual, "I've Got Peace Like a River." May the peace of God be with you...

**"I've Got Peace Like a River"**

*First verse: I've got peace like a river...*

*Second verse: I've got joy like a fountain...*

*Third verse: I've got love like an ocean...*

***To Hear God's Word***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Leader: Prepare our hearts and minds, O God, to receive your WORD. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may obey your will, through Jesus our Lord, Amen.

Join me in the responsive reading printed here...

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 133

Leader: How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live together in unity!

**People: It is like precious oil poured on the  
head, running down on the beard,**

Leader: ...running down on Aaron's beard,  
down on the collar of his robe.

**People: It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.**

Leader: For there the Lord bestows his blessing,  
even life forevermore.

Leader: Follow the reading from the New  
Testament found in Romans 11 as printed here...

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 11:1 – 2a, 29 – 32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

... <sup>29</sup> For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn; he will never go back on his promises. <sup>30</sup> Once you were rebels against God, but when the Jews refused his gifts God was merciful to you instead. <sup>31</sup> And now the Jews are the rebels, but some day they, too, will share in God's mercy upon you. <sup>32</sup> For God has given them all up to sin so that he could have mercy upon all alike.

Leader: We welcome Christa to share the gospel of the Lord.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 15: 10 -28

<sup>10</sup>Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup>What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

<sup>13</sup>He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup>Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

<sup>15</sup>Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

<sup>16</sup>"Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup>"Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup>But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>10</sup>These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

<sup>21</sup> Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

<sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So, his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

<sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

<sup>26</sup> He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Leader: The word of the Lord...

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Christa

### *To Respond in Faith*

Leader: Let us sing the hymn printed in the bulletin...

#### **\* "God of the Sparrow"**

God of the sparrow

God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise



God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

## JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

**Prayers of the People...** *(Please share any prayer requests and any joys that you have...)*

Leader: Dear Lord...

The Lord's Prayer *(words given here...)*

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.

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*There are offering plates available for each of you to give your tithes and offerings to your own church...*

Leader: If you have not placed your offerings in the plates provided, please do so before you leave. Together, let us dedicate these gifts to God with the prayer printed in the bulletin.

## PRAYER of DEDICATION *(unison)*

**People: We give these gifts back to you with joy. Please bless them and use them. May they help run our churches, feed the hungry, comfort the sick, and share your great love with our community and in the world. In Jesus's name...amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Are there any announcements for either church today?

*Portville Presbyterian Church: Newsletter  
Articles are due next Sunday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

Leader: Our final hymn today is...

### \*HYMN

### "We Come with Joy"

We come with joy to meet our Lord,  
Forgiven, loved, and free,  
In awe and wonder to recall  
His life laid down for me  
His life laid down for me

And thus, with joy we meet our Lord,  
His presence, always near,  
Is in such friendship better known;  
We see and praise Him here,  
We see and praise Him here.

Together met, together bound,  
We'll go our different ways,  
And as His people in this world,  
We'll live and speak His praise,  
We'll live and speak His praise!

## CHARGE AND BLESSING



*For the Week beginning August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

GREETERS: Barb & Linda

PRAYER FAMILY: Katie & Matt & Family

ELDER for the Month: Barb

VIDEO STREAMING TECH: N/A

Mon. 8/17 Office Closed

Tues. 8/18 Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Wed. 8/19 Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Session Meeting: 4:00 p.m.

Thurs. 8/20 Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Property Committee Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Fri. 8/21 Office Closed

***Sanctuary Cleaning for 8/23 – Connie***

8/23 Next Sunday – Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth

Liturgist: Craig

Greeters: Mary Ann

Video Streaming Tech: Julie

Organist: Joshua

HEARING ENHANCERS are available in the Narthex.

We are collecting TUNA FISH for the Portville Community Food Pantry. ***REMINDER: Egg cartons are also being collected.***

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** is the deadline to submit pictures/articles to Julie for the **SEPT/OCT NEWSLETTER**.



ONE LICENSE

First Presbyterian Church of Portville is a member of ONE LICENSE  
offering copyright solutions for worship services