

**Synod of the Sun
Evening Worship & Installation Service
February 23, 2026, 7:00pm**



GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit and join me in the call to worship.

God you are our refuge.
**You are the shore in sight,
You are the hands that reach out,
You are the ground on which to rest.**

God you are our strength.
**You are the life we long for,
you are the refusal to give up,
you are the keys of home we carry with us.**

God you are our help in time of trouble.
**We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,
We call on you from the wilderness and the deep.
God, we call you to meet us in this place!**

***OPENING SONG**

“Be Thou My Vision”

GTG 450

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, you know who we are.
You know everything we have done.
**We thirst for things that will never satisfy us.
We commit ourselves to things that will never last.
We worship things that will never bring salvation.
Still, you offer us the gift of living water.
Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life.**

Forgive us, O Lord,
And give us this living water.
Restore us with purity of heart and strength of purpose,
so in your service we may find perfect freedom
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever,
Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PEACE

God's peace be with you all. **And also with you.**
Let us now share this peace with one another.

PRAYER FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

Let us pray,
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be present with us, during experiences of disasters, O God.
Be with us during periods of far-reaching pain, dear Jesus.
We grieve the suffering of people from impacts that occur suddenly.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up to you each person in pain,
We lift up to you the reverberations of horrific news stories
that affect all of us.
For we are connected as a people,
and grief following disasters touches us all.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Engage our imaginations and move our hearts to compassion, O Lord,
that we would interact with the news
as the stories of our beloved siblings in Christ,
flesh and blood, divine image-bearers, irreplaceable individuals
whose losses will leave known absences in homes, friendships, workplaces,
churches, schools, organizations, and neighborhoods.

Be merciful to the wounded.
Be present with the bereaved.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You do not run from our brokenness, O God.
You move ever toward those in need.
Your heart is always inclined toward those who suffer.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now let your mercies be active
through the hands, the words, and the compassionate care
of those who willingly enter places of sadness, to console and to serve.
Be with all who move toward this need:
the helpers, the counselors, the first responders,
those who offer aid and protection,
the pastors, the church administrators, the youth directors,
the elders, the deacons, the volunteers
the people who serve food in the kitchen,
the people who repair church facilities,
the people who pray ceaselessly for others,
the presbytery disaster response teams,
the volunteers who serve on Long Term Recovery Groups funding unmet
needs,
the Synod of the Sun Partnership for Disaster Recovery.
Be with those who meet immediate practical needs,
those who seek to heal physical wounds,
and who come after, to carry the long hard work
of rebuilding families and hearts and lives and community.

Grant all of us wisdom, courage, vision, sympathy and strength,
to serve effectively in our various capacities.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in the shadow of such tragedy,
let us not lose hope.
Sweep us up in the rapid movements of mercy,
breathing love into newly wounded spaces.

Help us recognize echoes of your own mercy and compassion –
Resurrect us with hope for your coming presence.
Move our hearts, O Lord, to your rhythms,
Equipping us to prepare, to respond, and to help aid recovery,
For any disaster that may come.

Hold us, Holy Spirit, in the midst of tragedy.
Move us, Holy Spirit, in the aftermath of tragedy,
Heal us, Holy Spirit, of our wounds.
And carry us into hope.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 130

Waiting for Divine Redemption: A Song of Ascents.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to
redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Watch-persons with Lanterns and Networking”

Rev. Ted V. Foote Jr.

***SONG**

“Light the Fire”

I stand to praise You
But I fall on my knees
My spirit is hungry
By my flesh is so weak

I feel Your arms around me
As the power of Your healing begins
You breath, new life into me
Like a mighty, rushing wind

Light the fire (light the fire)
In my soul (in my weary soul)
Fan the flame (fan the flame)
Make me whole (make my spirit whole)
Lord You know (Lord You know)
Where I've been (where I've been)
So light the fire, in my heart again.

EUCCHARIST

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. John Williams

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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise, Loving God...

...Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the choir of creation
and all the saints of all times and places
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven above and all the earth
Are full of your glory. Alleluia
Blessed is he who comes in your holy name.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Alleluia.***

Blessed are you, O Christ, for coming all the way to us...
...Great is the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Jesus Christ will come again.
Christ has died and Christ is risen,
We are all alive in him.
Neither death nor any misery
Can defeat God's love for us.
Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Good news! Glad and glorious!***

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(using the language closest to your heart)*

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION – THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

***SONG**

“Come Thou Fount”

GTG 475

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ,
a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

**The great ends of the Church are
the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;
the preservation of the truth;**

**the promotion of social righteousness,
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

... Do we, members of the Synod of the Sun,
confirm the call of God
of Libby Janes,
into ministry
by installing her as the director
of the Synod of the Sun Partnership for Disaster Recovery,
in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do you promise to support and encourage Libby in this ministry,
and honor your role as her partner for disaster recovery
in the Synod of the Sun?

We do.

***LAYING ON OF HANDS**

At this time I invite any people who feel so moved, who have been part of
Libby's journey up to this time, and who will share in this ministry of the Synod
of the Sun.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us;
and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives,
empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.
We thank you for being with Libby Janes her whole life long,
And leading her into ministry, to serve the Synod of the Sun at this time,
and to minister to people surviving disasters throughout this whole Synod –
Texas,
Oklahoma,
Arkansas,
And Louisiana.
Establish her in your truth,
and guide her by your Holy Spirit,
that in your service, she may grow in faith,
in hope,
and in love,
and be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ,

to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF ANOINTING

SENDING

*SONG

“Celebration Song”

For our life together we celebrate
Life that lasts forever we celebrate
For the joy and for the sorrow
Yesterday, today, tomorrow, we celebrate

For the great creation, we celebrate
For our own salvation, we celebrate
For the sun and for the rain
Through the joy and through the pain, we celebrate

Ah! There's the celebration.
Ah! There's the celebration.
Celebrate the whole of it!

For the Word He's spoken, we celebrate
For His body broken, we celebrate
For the feasting at the table,
By His grace we all are able to celebrate

For the Lord of love, we celebrate
For our Father of love, we celebrate
For the Son who is our brother
For the Spirit, for the three together we celebrate

Ah! There's the celebration.
Ah! There's the celebration.
Ah! There's the celebration.

BENEDICTION

Adopted by Libby in honor of Dr. Blair Monie, Libby's childhood pastor at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church of Dallas, who passed away in 2018.

Assisting in Worship

Rev. Maggie Alsup, *commissioner from the Presbytery of Arkansas & Lyon College chaplain*

Commissioned Pastor Sharon Curry, *commissioner at-large from Grace Presbytery*

Ben Davidson, *commissioner from Palo Duro Presbytery*

Rev. Ted V. Foote Jr., *preacher; chaplain at Austin Seminary*

Rev. Lynn Hargrove, *General Presbyter & Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of New Covenant*

Libby Janes, *to be installed as Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery Director*

Rev. Matt Miles, *Missional Presbyter from Tres Rios Presbytery*

Rev. Mitch Miller, *Synod Leader & Stated Clerk*

Rev. Bobby Musengwa, *Transitional General Presbyter for Mission Presbytery*

Thomas Riggs, *Synod Communication & Administration Coordinator*

Rev. Karen Rogers, *Presbytery of the Pines*

Tammy Stepka, *Synod Administrative Assistant*

Commissioned Pastor Bill Wiles, *Synod Treasurer*

Rev. Dr. John Williams, *presider; chaplain at Austin College*

Rev. Richard Williams, *Interim General Presbyter from the Presbytery of South Louisiana*

Liturgy Adapted from

“God You Are” from *Liturgies from Below* by Cláudio Carvalhaes (2020)
Book of Common Prayer, PC(USA) (2018)

“A Liturgy Grieving a National Tragedy” from *Every Moment Holy v. 2* by Douglas McKelvey (2020)