

Season after Pentecost, Year C, Proper 18

(Sunday between September 4 and September 10 inclusive)

Color: Green

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at [Oremus Bible Browser](#)]

[Jeremiah 18:1-11](#) (*At the potter's house, God says: Like clay, the people are in my hand*)

[Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18](#) (*O Lord, you have formed me; I am fearfully and wonderfully made*)

[Philemon 1:1-21](#) (*Paul writes to Philemon about Onesimus: welcome him as a brother*)

[Luke 14:25-33](#) (*Jesus explains the cost of discipleship*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#) (*Choose life and prosperity or death and adversity*)

[Psalm 1](#) (*They shall prosper like trees by the water*)

Themes: Repentance, Welcome, Discipleship, Choice, Faithfulness

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](#), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the scriptures or themes of this service.

Change My Heart, O God (<i>CHANGE MY HEART</i>).....	Jeremiah
Have Thine Own Way, Lord (<i>ADELAIDE</i>).....	Jeremiah
I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (<i>WATERLIFE</i>)	Psalm 139
O Jesus, I Have Promised (<i>ANGEL'S STORY</i>).....	Luke
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (<i>BEACH SPRING; JUBILEE; NETTLETON</i>)	Philemon
Search Me, O God (<i>MAORI</i>).....	Psalm 139
Spirit of the Living God (<i>IVERSON</i>)	Jeremiah
Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said (<i>BOURBON; QUEBEC</i>)	Luke
Take, O Take Me As I Am (<i>TAKE ME AS I AM</i>)	Jeremiah
They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love (<i>ST. BRENDAN'S</i>)	Philemon
Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons) (<i>KELVINGROVE</i>)	Luke
Your Words to Me are Life and Health (<i>WINCHESTER OLD</i>)	Deuteronomy, Psalm 1

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Embrace My Way and Cross – E Luke
Rob Glover
© 1997, GIA Publications, G-4594
Unison, Keyboard, opt. 2 C-Instruments

God Has Called Us – ME Luke
Robert A. Hobby
© 2006, MorningStar Music, 50-6067
SATB, Organ, opt. Brass, Timpani

Have Thine Own Way, Lord – M Jeremiah
Terre Johnson
© 2019, MorningStar Music, 50-6124
SATB, Piano

He's Got the Whole World – M Jeremiah
African-American Spiritual/Keith Hampton, arr.
© 2013, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5960-8
SATB, a cappella

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry – ME
..... Psalm 139
John Ylvisaker/Sherri Hanson, arr.
© 2015, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-9876-9
SAB, Keyboard

Take Up Your Cross – E Luke
CANDLER/Anthony Giamanco, arr.
© 2007, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-7896-8
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

Know My Heart – E Psalm 139
Benjamin Harlan
© 1993, Shawnee Press, A-6836
SATB, Keyboard

Lord, Be Thy Word My Rule – ME Deuteronomy
K. Lee Scott
© 2017, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-5064-2598-6
SATB, Organ

Lord, You Know Me – E Psalm 139
Antonio Vivaldi/Hal H. Hopson, arr.
© 1993, Belwin Mills, BSC 00264
2-Part Mixed, Piano

Psalm 1 – M Psalm 1
Mark Hayes
© 2008, Beckenhorst Press, BP 1838
SATB, Piano, opt. Oboe, Strings

-- Youth and Children --

As Clay In Your Hand – M Jeremiah
Larry E. Schultz
© 2006, Choristers Guild, CGA1070
SATB, Piano

Surely He Will Care for Me – E Psalm 139
John Carter
© 1984, Hope Publishing, JC 292
Unison, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 1)

Loving and Gracious God,
May our souls meditate on the goodness of Your ways.
May our hearts delight in the availability of Your wisdom.
May our lives manifest the fruit of Your Spirit.
May our lives be rooted deeply in the Living Waters of Your Love.
May our worship gather us together as a community of wisdom.
May we know first-hand Your watchful care and guidance.
Amen.

—Scott Wagoner*

GATHERING PRAYER

(based on Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18)

Loving and Gracious God,

We are always and forever immersed in Your Presence and Love. There is not a moment in which we are separated from You or far from You. You know me better than I know myself. Through this knowing, You draw us closer to You. In this knowing, we come to understand ourselves, for You have formed and shaped our inward self.

May we allow Your Spirit to form and shape our inmost being. Make Your works known to us and open our hearts up to wonder.

If we have forgotten who we are, reacquaint us with ourselves. If we have forgotten who You are, remind us of Your goodness and shape us to Your will. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on Jeremiah 18:1-11)

Loving God,

You are the One who lovingly molds and shapes our lives. We are often resistant to Your shaping and forming. We willfully walk in our own way and follow our own wisdom. You have the power to raise up as well as break down nations, yet we live as if we have all the power and all the wisdom. We often refuse to listen to Your voice and, instead, put our trust in all the voices around us that reject Your ways. Forgive us for our pride and welcome us back into Your shaping hands and Presence. Mold us into the people You would have us be and shape us into faithful people who live in faithfulness to You. You are the potter; we are the clay. In Your Mercy we pray. Amen.

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Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

—DANIEL IVERSON, "Spirit of the Living God," 1926

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CENTERING PRAYER

(based on Luke 14:25-33)

Leader: Loving God, you invite all of creation and its inhabitants to Your banquet table to feast upon Your grace and mercy. You invite the privileged and under-resourced. You invite the healthy and the sick. You invite the powerful and the marginalized. You invite the religious and irreligious. You invite all of creation to Your Grace Banquet. May we, in silence, see ourselves sitting with one another at this table.

(Everyone holds silence together for a few moments)

Leader: Merciful God, you offer us Your bountiful grace and invite us to partake of Your goodness, but we make excuses to turn away or avoid Your invitation. We often rely on our own sufficiency rather than receive from Your grace what is most sufficient for our own souls. We would rather go it alone than be in community with others in need of Your grace. May we, in the silence, become aware of our own insufficiency and excuses.

(Everyone holds silence together for a few moments)

Leader: And now, God, form us into your disciples and faithful followers. Help us to put aside our self-sufficiency and arrogance and welcome your invitation to follow You.

Everyone: Amen!

RESPONSIVE LITURGY

(based on Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

Leader: There is a deadness in our world that can often settle in our souls. May we choose life and live in God's abundance.

People: At times our heart turns away from You, O God, and we choose our own willful path.

Leader: O God, may we turn our hearts to You and return to the One who is the Giver of all Life and abundance. May we live to follow Your will.

People: Impress upon our hearts Your commands. May we recognize the grace and goodness You have set before us.

Leader: The living God sets before us the choice of deadness or abundance.

People: May we choose Life! May we choose the abundance of God's grace! May we choose following in the ways of God that lead to life!

All: Amen!

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Let choice whisper in your ear and love murmur in your heart. Be ready. Here comes life.

—MAYA ANGELOU

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BENEDICTION

(based on Philemon1:1-21)

We are called to live lives of love that bring hope and confidence to others. May our presence this week refresh the hearts of all those we meet. May we be thankful for everyone that adds to our life in encouraging ways. May we welcome encouragement from others as well as be an encouragement for others. May we welcome others into our life and may our souls be a welcoming space towards the world. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

* Thanks to Scott Wagoner for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor