

Worship Service ~ *A Firm Foundation*

July 26, 2026 - Pentecost 9, Year A,

Romans 8:26-39 / Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (The Message)

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, my name is *Sacia Vik*. It's my pleasure to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church.

Please stand with as you are able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship ~ based on [*Psalm 128*](#)

One: Happy is everyone who walks in the ways of the LORD with respect.

All: You will enjoy what you've worked hard for with happiness; and things will go well for you.

One: In your house, your life-long partner will be like a vine full of fruit.

All: All around your table, your children will be like olive trees, freshly planted.

One: That's how life unfolds for those who honor the Lord:
they will be blessed!

All: May we receive God's blessings from Zion - and may we live to see the next generations flourish.

Invocation

Through dreams and visions, O God, you broaden the horizon and hope of your people, that they may discover the meaning of your covenant, even in the midst of trial and exile.

Increase the number of those who believe in your word so that all people may joyfully respond to your call and share in your promises. Amen.

Opening Hymn *Holy Spirit Come with Power ~ #26*

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Romans 8:26-39 MSG

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end,

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.
We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests -

**In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up?
Does anyone have any joys or concerns to share? - Rev. Dr. Sacia Vik**

Pastoral Prayer

God of Creation, God of Wonder, hear this offering of prayer and praise as a gift from our thankful hearts.

We thank you for the wonders all around us.

For grains of sand, the smell of rain falling on dry ground, for the shifting of the seasons and the sound of laughter.

We thank you God for one another – for the joys and struggles of relationships that nurture us and help us to grow.

God, we thank you for your eternal presence in our midst and for the good news of your deep abiding love for all of creation.

Even as we give thanks, we lift up the concerns that burden us this day.

[summarize prayer concerns mentioned by the people.]

We ask your peace and blessing on all those we have named in this place today and all whose names and circumstances remain in the safe sanctuary of your Spirit's care.

We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; also for all who provide care for the needs of others.

We pray for the lonely and the despairing...

for those who struggle with addiction...

for those who feel trapped in situations of abuse...

for those who are making difficult decisions in life...

God we pray for your church and its mission in the world.

Bless all of your children God, and pour your Spirit upon us, bringing healing, comfort and strength wherever it is needed.

All this we ask in the name of the One who calls us forward in faith, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ~

Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness ~ #327

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 MSG

Another story. “God’s kingdom is like an acorn that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge oak tree, and eagles build nests in it.”

Another story. “God’s kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises.”

“God’s kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field.

“Or, God’s kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for exquisite pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.

“Or, God’s kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That’s how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won’t do any good.”

Jesus asked, “Are you starting to get a handle on all this?”

They answered, “Yes.”

He said, “Then you see how every student well-trained in God’s kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it.”

Sermon ~ *A Firm Foundation*

Rev. Dr. Sacia Vik

Responding to the Word Together

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Call to Serve

A Time for Reflection Played by church musician Annie Center,

Closing Hymn *Here I am, Lord ~ #395*

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,

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