



July 26, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness."

— Corrie Ten Boom, AtoZQuotes.com

Order of Worship

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome

Kathy Leslie

The Community Gathers

Prelude

"Allegretto" from Symphony 7

Beethoven

*Call to Worship

Clayton Cunningham

One: We hear the story again today where stones are clenched in fists, where judgment rises quickly, and where violence is sold as a cure.

Many: Yet Christ writes in the dust beside the broken, and mercy interrupts condemnation.

One: When the powers that be arrive certain of their righteousness, the Light of the World reveals every heart, not to blame, but to free.

Many: We stand with the woman and with all who have been exposed, accused, anxious or afraid, trusting and watching.

One: We gather to worship the God of Grace, who unclenches fists and reveals all hearts.

Many: Let us open our hearts to worship the God of Glory, whose radiance transforms, and whose power is in forgiveness.

All: Holy One, meet us here. Grant us courage, grant us wisdom. Shape us by your mercy. Lead us by your grace so we may know your kin-dom's goal. Amen.

*Opening Hymn 464

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

Invocation

Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Musical Response 263

Surely the Presence of the Lord

WOLFE

Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

The Community Proclaims God's Word

Scripture Reading

John 8:1-11

Clayton Cunningham

...while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test

him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again." (NRSVUE)

...pero Jesús se fue al monte de los Olivos. Al amanecer se presentó de nuevo en el Templo. Toda la gente se le acercó, y él se sentó a enseñarles. Entonces, los maestros de la Ley y los fariseos llevaron a una mujer sorprendida en adulterio y, poniéndola en medio del grupo, dijeron a Jesús: —Maestro, a esta mujer se le ha sorprendido en el acto mismo de adulterio. En la Ley Moisés nos ordenó apedrear a tales mujeres. ¿Tú qué dices? Con esta pregunta le estaban tendiendo una trampa, para tener de qué acusarlo. Pero Jesús se inclinó y con el dedo comenzó a escribir en el suelo. Y como ellos lo acosaban a preguntas, Jesús se incorporó y les dijo: —Aquel de ustedes que esté libre de pecado, que tire la primera piedra. E inclinándose de nuevo, siguió escribiendo en el suelo. Al oír esto, se fueron retirando uno tras otro, comenzando por los más viejos, hasta dejar a Jesús solo con la mujer, que aún seguía allí. Entonces él se incorporó y le preguntó: —Mujer, ¿dónde están?[a] ¿Ya nadie te condena? —Nadie, Señor. Jesús dijo: —Tampoco yo te condeno. Ahora vete, y no vuelvas a pecar. (NVI)

Special Music

Amazing Grace
Carol Hargis-Nation, soprano

arr. Mark Hayes

Sermon

"Too Quick to Throw Stones"

Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Musical Response 259

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

Prayers of the People

Carol John

The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Giving

Val Cunningham

Responsive Hymn 382

We Give Thee but Thine Own

SCHUMANN

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Communion Hymn 97

Fairest Lord Jesus

ST. ELIZABETH

Invitation to the Table

Carol John

Prayer over the Elements

Carol John

Words of Institution

Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Those who are able are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements and partake by intinction. Those serving will tear a piece of bread. You will dip it in the cup. You may return to your seat via the side aisles. The Table of the Lord is open to all. Christ invites us into communion.

The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

Invitation to Join

Carol John

***Invitation Hymn 482**

O Christians, Haste

TIDINGS

***Benediction**

Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Postlude

Crown Him with Many Crowns

arr. Chris Neal

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

We welcome Becky Rambin as our guest accompanist today.

Bulletin cover:

"The Woman taken in Adultery," Rembrandt, 1644, at The National Gallery, London.

Source: <http://www.nationalgalleryimages.co.uk>

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet after worship with the Elder offering the invitation,
or contact the church office any time.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."

BIENVENIDA CONGREGACIONAL

"Reafirmando nuestra propia fe en Jesucristo, les damos la bienvenida a esta expresión de la iglesia universal de Dios. Los recibimos con amor, nos comprometemos a su cuidado y celebramos su presencia en nuestra congregación. Mediante el poder del espíritu de Dios, hagamos juntos justicia, amemos la misericordia y caminemos humildemente con Dios, quien nos fortalece para servirnos unos a otros."

VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to **be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, hunger and social issues that affect our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

Douglass Anne Cartwright
Bookkeeper

TECH CREW
James Lackey
John Leslie

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Kate Lynch

JULY DEACON
Clayton Cunningham

JULY 26 ELDER
Carol John

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter and Friday Flash for details and more.)

We welcome to MHCC today our guest preacher, Rev. Derek Wilkerson.

Rev. Derek is a Disciples of Christ ordained minister, who has served congregational and specialized settings throughout North Texas.

Stay for a Farewell Party for Paul and Laura Mitchell today after worship.

Come help us celebrate Paul and Laura and wish them well on their next chapter.

Town Hall with ARC Content & Communications and Church Cartographers.

August 9 at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Have you heard about the family internment camps in Texas?

Adult Sunday School is reading and discussing *The Train to Crystal City*, by Joe Jarboe Russell, which describes the motivations of our government and the lives of those impacted by this 1942 era program. Learn about parallels with our present time, and possible responses, both then and now. Join us in Room 1 at 10:00 a.m. Sundays.

Ladies Who Lunch will meet August 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Meet at Lake Highlands Cafe, 6751 Abrams Road, Ste. 100, Dallas (214-613-6310). Located in a shopping center just north of the Super Target on Skillman at Abrams. Please let Carol Hargis-Nation know if you can join us.

Next CAF is August 19.

Make plans to join us in community hall at noon for Christian Adult Fellowship!

Mark your calendar:

~~Elders Meeting - July 26, 12:30 p.m. — canceled~~

Cabinet Meeting - August 6, 7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - August 13, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting - August 16, 12:15 p.m.

All Church Prayer - Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. on Zoom

Prayer Alcove - Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adult Book Discussion - Sundays, 10:00 a.m., room 1

Scan this QR code
to make a financial
contribution to
Midway Hills
Christian Church:



JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

Megan and Pat Mercer; Don and Elaine Manworren; Chris and Jayne Sparrer; Dan Gaylord

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

Jack van Wunnik—cancer surgery recovery; Mary Ludwick's former co-worker, Carol Roberts—cancer; Mary Ludwick's brother John—hospitalized; Jackie Wintle—former member facing serious health concerns; Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins; David Hammons' wife, Joan; Rev. Robert Schomp

Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Nina Boothe	Gay and Jim Gilmore	Bryen Lackey
Frank and Millie Martin	Jeryl Crawford	Lynne Stokes
Judy Mank		

Sympathy to:

- ❖ Dan Gaylord and family on the passing of his aunt and uncle.
- ❖ Laura Mitchell and family and friends of her sister, Mercedes Alcazar, who passed away June 20.

Let's celebrate with joy:

- Jayne and Chris Sparrer's wedding anniversary
- Elaine and Don Manworren's wedding anniversary
- Our guests/visitors in worship in the sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Muslim community
- Religious freedom legislation
- Legislative sessions
- Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants and refugees

Please pray for our nation and world:

- **Being inclusive, pursuing justice, embracing diversity**
- Those working for peace in places of conflict and those caught in the cycles of violence
- Justice for the people of Ukraine and others struggling against oppression
- Justice for the Palestinian people
- Those who have limited access to health care and those working to expand access
- Those experiencing discrimination and oppression because of their gender identity, sexual orientation or gender expression
- Those struggling with food insecurity and those working to overcome it
- Those who work to create a larger Welcome Table

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- ~~12:30 p.m. Elders Meeting - CANCELED~~
- 12:15 p.m. Farewell Party for Paul & Laura Mitchell

Tuesday

July 28

- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Thursday

July 30

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer, on Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Alcove
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Prelude: *"Allegretto" from Symphony 7, Beethoven.*

Special Music: *Amazing Grace*, arr. Mark Hayes. ©2007 Lorenz Publishing.

Postlude: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, arr. Chris Neal. ©1996 Lorenz Publishing.

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