



June 28, 2026 | Sunday Worship | 9:30 a.m.

** Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Welcome & Announcements (*back of bulletin*)

**Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 13 & Genesis 22)*

One: How long, O Lord? Sometimes the world feels overwhelming, divided, and disconnected, and we cry out for your presence.

All: But we trust in your steadfast love; our hearts shall rejoice in your salvation!

One: Like Abraham on the mountain, we come to this place trusting that the Lord will provide.

All: We bring our whole selves to you, trusting in the God of grace and provision.

One: Come, let us worship the God who receives us entirely, and who calls us to sing of His bountiful dealings!

**Opening Hymn "Jesus Calls Us" UMH #398 lyrics on the screen*

Opening Prayer (Unison) – (Based on Romans 6:12-23)

Lord God, we confess that we have offered parts of ourselves

To things that cannot save us – to comfort, to familiarity, to the fear of what others might think. We have called things clean that we kept at a distance.

We have called ourselves welcoming while we waited for others to earn it.

Forgive us. Reclaim us. Present us – every part of us – as instruments of your righteousness. Let us live no longer for ourselves

but as those who have been brought from death to life, freed not to do nothing, but to love freely. Through Jesus Christ, who is our freedom and our life. Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 10:40–42 (NRSVUE)

40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message "All Means All: Recovering the Radical Welcome"

Holy Communion: All are welcome at this open table.

Invitation to the Table; The Great Thanksgiving; Eucharist; Breaking the Bread; Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Invitation to Generosity: Offering baskets are available on the side/back of the sanctuary.

Or Mail your check: PO Box 1068, Girdwood, AK 99587, or give online; scan QR codes→



Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Please join me in offertory prayer: **God of the open door, we bring what we have**

– not because it is enough, but because you have taught us that even a cup of cold water counts. Receive these gifts. Use them to make room for someone who has not yet been welcomed. Let our giving be an act of welcome. Amen.

Prayers and Celebration & The Lord's prayer

Concerns: "God in Your mercy" | **Response: "Hear our prayer"**

Joys: "Thanks be to God" | **Response: "Alleluia"**

*Closing Hymn "All Are Welcome" by Marty Haugen *lyrics on the screen*

*Benediction

*Sending Forth Song "On Eagles Wings" (CCLI Song #3127)

It is the tradition of the Girdwood Chapel UMC to form a circle, hold hands, and sing 'On Eagles Wings.'

Our Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. year-round

SERVICE NOTES

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal, TFWS: The Faith We Sing, Girdwood Chapel's CCLI Basic #: 11038417, CCLI Streaming License #: CSPL155734, CEB: Common English Bible, NRSVUE: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Worship Helpers—Greeter: Debra, Tech Helper: Jeremy, Liturgist: Mary Ellen, Preacher: Pastor Hyunghee

Announcements:

- **Girdwood Food Pantry:** First Sundays 2-4p.m., 2nd&4th Wednesday 4-6p.m.
- **75th Anniversary Team Meeting: July 1 | 3 p.m. | by Zoom**
- **Forest Fair Parking Event Needed: July 3–5 | Sign-up Link in the Chapel Chatter**
- **Leadership Board Meeting:** July 14 | 7 p.m. | via Zoom
- **Finance Team Meeting:** July 23 | 3 p.m. | in the church office
- **Lost Creek Mission Team Visit:** We are excited to welcome the Lost Creek Mission Team from Lost Creek UMC, Oklahoma, to Girdwood Chapel on Sunday, July 19. The team will join us for worship, and following the service we will share a time of fellowship and refreshments together.
If you would like to help provide refreshments, please contact Jody.
Please also keep the mission team in your prayers as they prepare for and participate in their mission work in Alaska this summer. We look forward to welcoming them and hearing about their ministry.
- **2026 Summer Message Series "*Mission and Evangelism in Our Context*":** Throughout July and August, we will explore what mission and evangelism mean in the unique context of Girdwood. Using the Revised Common Lectionary, along with selected biblical passages and insights from mission and evangelism scholars and practitioners—including Lesslie Newbigin, David J. Bosch, Darrell L. Guder, Michael Frost, Alan Hirsch, and Andrew Root—we will reflect on how God calls us to live, serve, and share the good news in our community today.
A weekly Summer Sunday Column will also be available throughout the series.

Sunday Column 1 - THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JOINING AND FOLLOWING

There is a difference between joining an organization and following a person.

I have been a member of many organizations. I have signed forms, paid dues, attended meetings, and let memberships lapse when I stopped showing up. Membership is transactional. The organization exists to provide something; I decide whether the exchange is worth my investment. When it is no longer worth it, I leave.

Following is different. When you follow someone, you are not primarily exchanging value—you are entering into relationship. You watch how they move. You try to understand why they make the choices they do. You go to places you would not have gone on your own. And over time, something of who they are begins to show up in who you are.

When Jesus walks along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and says 'Follow me,' Jesus is not enrolling people in a program. Jesus is not offering a doctrinal statement to agree with or a cause to support. Jesus is making a personal invitation into accompaniment. Come and walk with me. Watch how I do this. See who I go to, who I eat with, what I consider important.

I sometimes think that much of what has gone wrong in the church's history comes from confusing these two things. When Christianity became an institution rather than a following, it naturally began to focus on joining: right beliefs to assent to, right rites to participate in, right membership classes to complete. None of those things are bad in themselves. But when they become primary, the living person of Jesus tends to recede behind the institution that bears his name.

The disciples were not asked to affirm a creed before they were invited. The disciples were asked to come. The credal affirmations came later, slowly, painfully, as following revealed who it was they were following. Peter's confession 'You are the Christ' did not come in an enrollment meeting. It came after months of watching Jesus, being confused by Jesus, being challenged by Jesus, failing Jesus.

I think there is something freeing about this for people in a community like ours. Many people in Girdwood have complicated relationships with institutional religion. Some have been burned by it. Some have simply drifted away without quite knowing why. Some have never had a relationship with it at all.

'Come and see' is not an institutional enrollment. It is a personal invitation to come near to someone worth knowing. And the remarkable thing about Jesus—the thing that strikes me freshest every time I re-read the Gospels—is that when people came near to Jesus, their lives changed. Not because they were coerced or manipulated. But because something about who Jesus was and how Jesus moved in the world was genuinely compelling.

That is what I am hoping for this summer in our message series. Not that we will recruit members or expand programs or demonstrate institutional health. But that we will come near enough to Jesus to be changed by what we see. And that some of that change will be visible to the people in our community who are watching.

What would it mean for you, this week, to follow rather than join? To practice attention rather than performance? I find that question surprisingly difficult. But I also find it unusually alive.

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