



July 5, 2026 | Sunday Worship | 9:30 a.m.

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

Welcome & Announcements (*back of bulletin*)

*Call to Worship

One: We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: We gather as people who have been invited. Not because we earned it.

Not because we are ready. Because God said: come.

One: The prophet said: rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion.

Your God comes to you — humble, and bringing peace.

All: God comes not with force. God comes speaking peace to the nations, releasing the prisoners, restoring double to those who have lost.

One: And in Jesus, God has come close enough to speak directly. He says: come to me, all you who are weary. Take my yoke upon you. Learn from me. I am gentle and humble in heart.

All: Some of us are weary this morning. Some of us are carrying more than we can easily name.

We have come to the right place.

One: You do not have to be impressive to be here. You only have to come.

All: We come. Thanks be to God, who receives us as we are.

*Opening Hymn “This Is My Song” UMH #437 *lyrics on the screen*

Opening Prayer (*Unison*) – (*Based on Romans 7:15–25 and Matthew 11:28–30*)

Lord God, we confess that we don’t always do what we want to do.

We intend to love well and we fall short.

We intend to be patient and we are not.

We intend to speak gently and we do not.

We carry things we cannot seem to put down,

and we pick up things we said we would not carry.

We are tired, Lord. Not always — but sometimes. More than we say out loud.

And so we come to you now, not because we have it together, but because you said: come.

You said: bring the weight. I will give you rest.

You said: take my yoke. It is shaped for you.

So here we are.

Teach us what you want to teach us today.

Form us into people whose lives are shaped by yours.

And let what we receive in this place

overflow into the lives of the people around us.

We pray in Your name, Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30 (NRSVUE)

16 “But to what will I compare this generation?

It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’;

19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

25 At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me

by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father

except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message “You Are Not Carrying It Alone”

Message “What Kind of Soul Does This Require?”

Holy Communion: All are welcome at this open table.

Invitation to the Table; The Great Thanksgiving; Epiclesis; 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 code*→



Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

Please join me in offertory prayer: **God of grace, we bring what we have — not because it is enough, but because it is ours to give. Receive these gifts. Use them as you use us — not by our impressiveness, but by your faithfulness. Let our giving be an act of trust. Let it carry something of the yoke we are learning to wear. 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 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” UMH #644 *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, NRSVUE: *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

The Worship Helpers—Greeter: Wendy, Tech Helper: Terry, Liturgist: Gus, Preacher: Pastor Hyunghee

Announcements:

- **Girdwood Food Pantry:** First Sundays 2-4p.m., 2nd&4th Wednesday 4-6p.m.
- **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:** The Lost Creek Mission 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.
- **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, we will reflect on how God calls us to live, serve, and share the good news in our community today.
- **Forest Fair Parking Event:** A heartfelt thank-you to Gus, Wendy, Lynné, Betsy, Terry, and Jody for organizing this year’s Forest Fair Parking Event and preparing everything—from restroom supplies to parking guides and countless behind-the-scenes details. We are also deeply grateful to all of our volunteers whose time and service helped make this event a success!

Sunday Column July 5 – THE GOSPEL WE REPLACED

I want to say something honest: I think we have, in large part, replaced the gospel Jesus preached with a different gospel. Not a bad gospel, necessarily. But a different one. And I think the difference matters.

The gospel Jesus preached was the kingdom of God. He announced it in city after city, town after town: 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has drawn near; repent and believe the good news.' That was his message. Not a formula for individual salvation, not a spiritual technique, not a path to personal flourishing. A reign. A new order breaking into the existing order. An announcement that everything is changing.

The gospel we have often preached in its place is what scholars sometimes call 'the plan of salvation': a set of propositions about sin, atonement, belief, and heaven, which, when assented to, result in the individual's eternal security. This is not entirely wrong. But it is radically different from what Jesus preached. It is smaller. More manageable. More private. And it tends to produce a different kind of person.

When the kingdom of God is the gospel, conversion means turning toward a new order—a new way of relating to God, neighbor, and creation. Zacchaeus doesn't just have a private spiritual experience; he restructures his economic life. The community Jesus gathers is not a collection of privately saved individuals; it is a visible, public, boundary-crossing community that itself demonstrates what the kingdom looks like.

When the plan of salvation is the gospel, conversion tends to mean assenting to certain beliefs and being assured of a post-death destination. The visible transformation of relationships, communities, and social structures can easily become optional. After all, those things are not the point. The point is getting people across a theological threshold.

I do not want to be dismissive of the tradition that formed many of us. There is real wisdom in attending to the individual soul. There is real grace in the assurance of forgiveness. But I think we are capable of holding those goods while also recovering the larger, more demanding, more beautiful gospel that Jesus himself announced.

One small test: Does your understanding of salvation have anything to say about the way you treat your neighbor? The way you use money? The way you relate to the created world around you? Does it have anything to say about what Girdwood looks like, in practice, when people who follow Jesus live here?

If it does—if the gospel you carry is that large—then the reign of God is near. Right here in the mountains.

Pastor Hyunghye Kim
Girdwood Chapel
girdwoodchapel@gmail.com