

Order of Worship for Sunday, June 28, 2026 With God, Our King: Can We Remain Free?

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we seek to grow in faith, love boldly, and make disciples by continually asking:

How am I loving God? How am I loving the people God puts in front of me?

How am I inviting others to embrace the hope of Christ in their lives?

† - Please rise in body or spirit where you see the cross

CENTERING WORDS Jesus calls His followers to be salt and light in the world—not withdrawn from it, not conformed to it, but faithfully present within it.

† SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE – (The Sanctuary Song, twice) *Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true, with thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Blessed are those who seek wisdom and walk in the ways of the Lord.

P: We come to worship the God who is our true King.

L: God has called us to live in freedom, not for ourselves alone, but for the good of our neighbors.

P: We come to learn again what it means to govern ourselves under God's grace.

L: Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

P: May our lives shine with faith, hope, and love.

L: Let us worship the Lord with grateful hearts.

P: We will praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

† OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and Sovereign God, We gather today with grateful hearts, mindful of the blessings we enjoy and the sacrifices made by generations before us. We thank You for the gift of freedom, for communities built upon faith, service, and responsibility, and for the opportunity to worship You without fear. As we celebrate the blessings of our nation, remind us that our highest citizenship is found in Your Kingdom. Shape our hearts through Your Word. Teach us to be people of character, self-control, and compassion. In His holy name we pray. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN America the Beautiful UMH #696

† BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER (The Lord’s Prayer – “trespasses”)

PASSING OF THE PEACE [St. James UMC and Sprucetown UMC]

PRAYER OF PREPARATION Freedom in Christ UMH #360 *We will pray it all in unison*

SELECTED SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 8:4-20 // Matthew 5:13-16

MESSAGE What kind of people are capable of remaining free?

† CLOSING HYMN The Battle Hymn of the Republic UMH #717

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

Reflection: May we be people who govern ourselves under Christ,
and leave behind a legacy of faith, character, and responsibility for those who follow after us.

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info
- July 5 – The Weaponizing the Fruit series continues featuring Kindness That Doesn’t Surrender the Truth. Invite a friend or visitors to join us!
- July 16 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation, St. James in Coburn at 9:30am. All ladies, welcome!
- July 19 – Penns Valley Charge Renewal Worship and Butterfly Release Service and Potluck Picnic, hosted this year by Trinity in Woodward. Bring a lawn chair for the service and a covered dish to share for lunch. Table service and beverages provided by Trinity.

CCLI #1671542 Elements of worship are from Ministry Matters, A Preacher’s Guide Lectionary Sermon Series Thematic Plans for Years A B and C, Feasting on the Word, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026.

Sponsor a butterfly for \$8 each as part of the Butterfly Release at our Charge Renewal Worship Service July 19th. Forms and payment are due Sunday, July 12, 2026.

Please make checks payable to “Penns Valley UMC Charge”. Thank you.

Your Name: _____ # of butterflies _____ x \$8 = _____

In memory / honor of _____

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