Gathering in the City

The 227th General Assembly (2026)
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

"Persevering Toward Wholeness"

Worship Resources for Sunday, June 28, 2026

— Gathering —

Call to Worship

I was glad when they said to me, *Ps. 122 (adapt.)*
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Our feet are standing
within your gates, Milwaukee.

Pray for the peace of this city.
May they prosper who love you.

Pray for the peace of every place.
May there be wholeness for all.

For the sake of all God's people
I will say, "Peace be with you."
For the sake of the house of the Lord
I will seek your good.

Hymn "Shall We Gather at the River" *see page 7*
A hymn for the 227th General Assembly (2026)

Confession and Pardon

Water may be poured into the baptismal font.

The Spirit and the church say, "Come." *Rev. 22:17*
Let everyone come to the water of life.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

There may be a time of silence for personal examination.

A song of prayer (such as a Kyrie) may be sung.

Holy One, have mercy on us.
You created us in your own image,
but we hurt and dishonor one another.

You planted us in a garden of good things
but we exploit and abuse the earth.
You gave us your word to guide us,
but we sin and fall short of your glory.

Forgive us, God of grace.
Clothe us in your righteousness,
fill us with the fruit of your Spirit,
and send us forth in your service,
that we may be a source of healing
in this world you love so much;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Water may be lifted from the baptismal font.

There is a river that flows from the throne of God—
the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, washing away our sin.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

A song of praise (such as a Gloria) may be sung.

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, *Eph. 4:32*
let us forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Worshipers may share signs of Christ's peace.

— Word —

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit
as the Scripture is read and proclaimed,
that we may delight in your teaching
and follow you faithfully, now and always;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture and Sermon

See page 9 of this document for scripture and sermon ideas.

Affirmation of Faith *PC(USA) Book of Confessions (adapt.)*

What is your only comfort in life and in death? *Heidelberg Catechism*
That I am not my own, but belong—

body and soul, in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

What is the chief end of human life? *Westminster Catechism*
Our chief end is to glorify and enjoy God forever.

Jesus Christ, attested for us in Holy Scripture, *Barmen Declaration*
is the one Word of God
we must hear, trust, and obey
in life and in death.
The church's commission,
upon which its freedom is founded,
consists in delivering the message
of the free grace of God to all people.

The church confesses its faith *Confession of 1967*
when it bears a present witness
to God's grace in Jesus Christ.
God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ
is the heart of the gospel in any age.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, *Confession of Belhar*
the communion of saints called from the entire human family.
We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ.

In life and in death we belong to God. *A Brief Statement of Faith*
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn

See page 9 of this document for hymn suggestions.

Prayers of Intercession

Particular intercessions or silent prayer may be included (...).

O Lord our God, you have called us
to be a holy temple and a priestly people,
persevering in prayer for the world.

We open our hearts to you this day, saying:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):
its members and congregations,

its deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders,
its sessions, presbyteries, and synods,
and for all the commissioners who have gathered
for the 227th General Assembly ...

Keep us faithful in your service
and use us to fulfill your purpose.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church throughout the world,
for ecumenical and interreligious partners,
and for those who struggle with faith, or do not believe.

Help us to embrace our shared humanity
and work together for the well-being of all.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for justice and peace on earth:
for an end to war, oppression, and poverty,
for the people and leaders of all nations,
and for the healing of your good creation ...

Turn weapons of war into instruments of peace
and let justice roll down like a mighty stream.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this nation, the United States,
as it approaches the 250th anniversary
of its Declaration of Independence ...

Set us free from fear and division
and inspire us to seek the common good.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the city of Milwaukee
and all the places we call home,
and especially for immigrants and refugees
who live and work and worship among us ...

Let our streets and neighborhoods
be places of safety and hospitality for all.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the needs and concerns
of this community of faith,
and all those whom we love—
those who are sick or suffering,
those who are vulnerable or in need,
and those who are mourning this day ...

Give healing, help, and comfort,
that all may know fullness of life in you.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God, your mercy extends
like the branches of a great tree,
offering shelter and salvation to all.
Let us be leaves of healing,
growing in faith and faithfulness
and spreading the good news of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said:

With the confidence of the children of God,
let us pray as Christ taught: **Our Father ...**

— Response —

Invitation to Offering

We are the body of Christ,
filled with the Holy Spirit
and called to offer works of mercy,
forms of assistance,
and gifts of healing in Jesus' name.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

An anthem or hymn may be sung as the offering is received.

A doxology may be sung as the offering is presented.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we give you thanks
that you have planted us on holy ground.
Like a tree planted by living waters,
you cause us to grow and flourish,
bearing good fruit through your Spirit.
Use the offering of our lives
to bring healing and wholeness
in this place, and in every place;
all in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

If the Lord's Supper is celebrated it may be included here;
see page 10 for a suggestion for the Great Thanksgiving.

— Sending —

Hymn “Leaves of the Tree” *see page 8*

A hymn for the 227th General Assembly (2026)

Charge and Blessing

Since we are surrounded *Heb. 12:1–2; Rev. 22:20*
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us run with perseverance
the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, *2 Cor. 13:13; Rev. 22:21*
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all the saints. **Amen.**

Shall We Gather at the River

Revelation 22:1–5

For the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Text: Stanza 1: Robert Lowry, 1864; stanzas 2–4: David Gambrell, 2026
Music: Robert Lowry, 1864

HANSON PLACE (8.7.8.7 with refrain)

Leaves of the Tree

Revelation 22:1–5

For the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Text: Deborah A. Block, 2026

Music: *Paris Antiphoner*, 1681; harm. La Feillée's *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808

O QUANTA QUALIA (11.11.11.11)

Scripture and Sermon Ideas

For congregations that use the Revised Common Lectionary, the readings for Sunday, June 28, 2026, are:

Semicontinuous Track	Complementary Track
Genesis 22:1–14	Jeremiah 28:5–9
Psalm 13	Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18
Romans 6:12–23	Romans 6:12–23
Matthew 10:40–42	Matthew 10:40–42

Preachers might highlight themes of faithfulness and providence (Genesis 22), prophetic voices in times of crisis (Jeremiah 28), the church's calling from sin to righteousness and death to life (Romans 6), and the welcome of Christ (Matthew 10).

For congregations seeking to connect to the theme of the 227th General Assembly (2026), "Persevering Toward Wholeness," the scriptural emphasis is Revelation 22:2: "and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." Recommended readings include:

Isaiah 2:1–5 *or* Nehemiah 8:1–3
Psalm 48, 87, *or* 122
Hebrews 11–1–3; 12:1–2 *or* 12:22–24
Revelation 21:22–27 *or* 22:1–5

Preachers might focus on the gathering of God's people (Isaiah 2 and Nehemiah 8), the gift of faith (Hebrews 11), the call to persevere (Hebrews 12), the promise of new creation (Revelation 21), and the hope of healing and wholeness (Revelation 22).

Hymn Suggestions

The two hymn inserts provided in this document, "Shall We Gather at the River" (new stanzas) and "Leaves of the Tree" were composed for the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Milwaukee. Here are some other hymn suggestions related to the theme and work of the General Assembly. "Live into Hope" was the theme for the 226th General Assembly (2024) in Salt Lake City.

God of Grace and God of Glory	GTG 307, PH 420
Guide My Feet	GTG 741, PH 354
Live into Hope	GTG 772; PH 332
The Church of Christ in Every Age	GTG 320; PH 421
The Church's One Foundation	GTG 321; PH 442
There Is a Balm in Gilead	GTG 792, PH 394

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
You are kind and gracious to us, O God,
blessing us with good things.
All the ends of the earth praise you;
the nations are glad and sing for joy
because you guide us with wisdom
and judge us with equity.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

A Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy") may be sung.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:
Christ is your Word made flesh,
your love revealed in the world.
He is our abiding peace—not as the world gives,
but a peace beyond compare.
In Christ's name we have received
the Holy Spirit, our Advocate.

The words of institution are included here, if not at the breaking of the bread.

Remembering your goodness and grace,
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude
as we share this joyful feast.

A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., "Christ has died") may be sung.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Give us a vision of your holy city, the new Jerusalem,
where the light of your glory dispels the night forever.
Heal the hurting nations and feed the world with good fruit.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The Amen may be sung.

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