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Jul

Wait with Eager Longing

Core Faith

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, YEAR A

Romans 8 calls us to see creation's groaning as bound up with our own salvation, inviting us to exercise dominion not as exploitation but as Christ-shaped care for a world longing to be reborn in hope.

REFERENCES

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

COLORS

Green

Liturgical Resources

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, we gather to join our voices with winds and seas, sunshine and rain, mountains and grassy plains to worship God, our Creator.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

We gather to join our hearts with creatures who creep and crawl, slither and squirm, swim and soar, to worship God, our Creator.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

We gather as witnesses of the harm that has been done to God's creation, to the groanings of the earth and all the earth's inhabitants who long for peace and flourishing.

We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Come, let us worship God who strengthens and equips us, guiding us to live out our faith as good stewards of God's good creation.

Come, let us worship God who inspires and empowers us to be stewards of hope and redemption in a wounded and hurting world! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026.

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and love, We rely on Your love extended to us in all ways and at all times, extravagantly and with generosity. We live day by day knowing that Your care and concern is poured out for us in Your provision for our needs and beyond our imagining. You entrust us with the gift of the good news of the Gospel and invite us to be partners in the sharing of the message of grace. Day by day, we realise the many gifts lavished upon us. We come to You to acknowledge and praise You for all Your goodness to us. Amen.

Written by Rev. Nigel Robb and posted at <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=7107>.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others. We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times are just impossible for us. We know that nothing is impossible in You. We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us. Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness. For Your Son came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied, abused and put to death. He rose again and came with the message of peace to those who had denied him and abandoned him. May we walk in his ways. Amen.

Blessing/Assurance of Pardon

For nothing is impossible with God. There is no place you can go, no end of the earth you can run, where God cannot find you. There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

Written by Rev. Mindi and posted on **Rev-o-lution**, <http://rev-o-lution.org/>. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/02/prayer-of-confession-loving-others.html>.

BENEDICTION

Beloved, the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. May the Spirit bless us and empower us to reveal ourselves as the children of God as we work for the flourishing of all creation. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026.

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