

# AUGUST 2025 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

*This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of August 2025.*

*If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family.*

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Dear Church Family,

As summer moves forward, I'm reminded of the powerful words from Luke 12:49–56 and Jeremiah 23:23–29, which challenge us to reflect on the fire and refining power of God's Word in our lives. This August, we are invited to embrace the refining fire that Jesus speaks about—not as something to fear, but as the fire that purifies, strengthens, and calls us into deeper faith and courageous living.

God's Word is near to us—alive and active—shaping our hearts and guiding us in times of division and uncertainty. As a community, let's listen attentively, discerning the signs of the times, and committing ourselves to be a people grounded firmly on the foundation of Christ.

I encourage each of you to engage deeply in worship, fellowship, and service this month, letting the Spirit ignite a passion for justice, truth, and love in our church and beyond.

May this month be one of transformation and renewal for us all.

Grace and peace to you all,  
Pastor Jonathan Greer

## AUGUST WORSHIP

**Aug 3**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Hos 11:1-11; Ps 107:1-9, 43; Col 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

### **Call To Worship**

Come, beloved of God, set aside your striving and your storing. We come to seek what is above, where Christ is seated in glory. Lift your hearts from the burdens that weigh you down. Our lives are hidden with Christ in God; in Him we find true life. Let us worship the One who gives freely, loves abundantly, and calls us to be rich toward God. We come with open hearts, ready to receive, ready to give, ready to be made new.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, We find it hard to resist the lie that life consists in the abundance of possessions. We are conditioned to believe that bigger is better. We confess that we have set our hearts on things that fade—on wealth, security, and our own desires. We have stored up treasures for ourselves while neglecting what truly gives life. Forgive us for chasing what does not satisfy and for turning from Your ways of generosity and grace. Renew our hearts. Teach us to seek what is above, to trust You fully, and to live lives rich toward You.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Help us to live not for what fades away, but to be rich toward you—giving ourselves and our gifts freely. Bless the gifts that we have offered this day as we offer ourselves—our gifts, our resources, and our hearts—to be used in the work of your kingdom. Strengthen us by your Spirit to live so that you can use us anywhere, and anytime. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

# AUGUST WORSHIP

**Aug 10**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Isa 1:1, 10-20; Ps 50:1-8, 22-23; Heb 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

## **Call To Worship**

We gather today to praise the One true God of Heaven and Earth. The God who created all things, the God who redeemed all things, and the God who sustains all things. We come to the Lord with grateful hearts for all that God has done for us. We come knowing that God welcomes us, loves us, and cares for our every need. As a new school year has begun, today we ask for God's blessing and safety over our children, their schools, their teachers, and all the staff. We come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son, knowing God will hear our prayers, as we give him the glory, for all the great things he has done!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Loving God and Lord of all, the weight of the world and of Sin is heavy. Living fully into your holiness, O God, is impossible. But you have given to us an easier way. You have given to us not only a message of hope, but a burden that is light, and a yoke that is easy. Forgive us of trying to earn your love. Forgive us for trying to do life alone. Forgive us for not loving you and not loving our neighbor. Remove the shackles of Sin and Death that bears its heavy load, so that we may take upon ourselves Christ's yoke, as he offers to us rest for our souls. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of abundance and eternal blessings, we give you thanks for the gift of life that you offer the world through your Son. For all the things you have done we return to you not only with our financial gifts, but also with the gifts of our lives in service to you. Take all of who we are and what we have and multiply it to be used to bring your glory to all the world, so that all the world may hear and know of your great love for us through the saving work of Jesus your Son. To you alone be glory, honor, and power. Amen.

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**Aug 17**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Isa 5:1-7; Ps 80:1-2, 8-19; Heb 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

## **Call To Worship**

Come, people of God—The Lord is not far off; He is near, speaking truth like fire, breaking lies like a hammer on stone. We come to listen for His living word— sharp, refining, powerful. Christ has come to kindle a holy fire on the earth—a fire that purifies, a truth that divides. We come to be stirred, not soothed—to be shaped by the Spirit, not shielded from it. Let us worship the God whose Word is our firm foundation— who speaks with power and calls us to truth, to justice, and to life.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, You are not far off, but near to us. Your Word is like fire—consuming what is false, refining what is true. Yet we have ignored Your voice, softened Your truth, and resisted the fire that would purify our hearts. You call us to discern the signs of Your kingdom, but we are slow to see and slow to change. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak again with power, burn away our complacency, and set our lives on the path of Your justice and peace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Generous God, everything we have is a gift from You—our time, our resources, our very breath. Thank You for Your faithfulness, for speaking truth into our lives and calling us to live with purpose and courage. Take these gifts we bring today. Use them—and use us—to kindle the fire of Your kingdom in our community and beyond. Make us bold in love, grounded in truth, and ready to follow where You lead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# AUGUST WORSHIP

**Aug 24**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6; Heb 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

## **Call To Worship**

Praise the Lord, O my soul! With all that we are, we praise God's holy name. Let's not forget the goodness of God. God forgives our failures and brings healing to our lives. God lifts us up from the darkest places and surrounds us with love and mercy. God fills our lives with good things and renews our strength like the eagle's. Just as Jesus set the bent-over woman free, God sets us free to stand tall in hope and praise. We rejoice and we are glad this day, and everyday of our lives.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Holy Lord, You have called us to this place to find rest and healing from the chaos and brokenness of our world. You tell us to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy for a reason— to step away from our striving and remember that You are our rest. Yet we confess that we often ignore Your invitation. We carry burdens You long to lift, and we hide from Your presence when You call us to be embraced by Your love. Like the woman bent low in the synagogue, we need Your healing touch to stand tall again. Heal us, Lord, of our sinful ways. Heal us, Lord, of our broken relationships—with You and with one another. Let us find Sabbath rest and true restoration in the healing balm that is Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank You for this holy mystery through which You have given Yourself to us. You alone bring healing to both body and soul—so show Your power in the lives of those who are hurting. By Your mercy, restore them, so they may live again in wholeness and serve You with renewed purpose. Send us into the world strengthened by Your Spirit, ready to give ourselves for others, and to offer healing in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Aug 31**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Jer 2:4-13; Ps 81:1, 10-16; Heb 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

## **Call To Worship**

Come, people of God—let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. He humbled Himself and welcomed the lowly; He served, not seeking status, but giving grace. At God's table, the last are honored and the humble are lifted up. Come to worship the One who emptied Himself for us and whom God has raised above every name. We come to glorify the Father who calls us, the Son who serves us, and the Holy Spirit who empowers us. Come, let us worship the God of justice and mercy together. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, You invite us to your table, but we often seek places of honor. You call us to welcome the poor, the outcast, and the overlooked, but we turn toward those who can repay us. Forgive our pride and our self-centered ways. Forgive us when we fear there is not enough. Remind us that You are enough. Teach us to follow the way of Christ—to live with humility, to serve with compassion, and to make room for all at your table of grace.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Generous God, You welcome all to Your table and teach us to honor the humble. We thank You for Your grace that invites, includes, and transforms. We bring our gifts in gratitude—not to earn a place, but to live out the welcome You've already given. Use these offerings—and use us—to lift up the lowly, welcome the stranger, and make room for all at Your table of grace. Send us out to serve with joyful hearts, remembering that in Your kingdom, love unites us and invites the last and the least. in the name of Christ, our gracious host and servant Lord. Amen

## How to Pray for Just About Anyone

1 Thes 3:9-13 - <sup>9</sup>: How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence. <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith. <sup>11</sup> May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. <sup>13</sup> May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen. (NLT)

One of the most practical and life-changing topics in the Christian life is prayer. In this section of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, we get a front-row seat to how Paul prays for the people he loves—and how we can use this as a template to pray for just about anyone.

Whether you're praying for:

- A friend going through trials,
- Someone you're disciplining,
- Or even an enemy who has hurt you—

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Paul's words give us a timeless framework for how to pray with power, purpose, and perspective.

### ***1. Start by Thanking God***

Paul begins by expressing gratitude: "How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence." (1 Thes 3:9). Thankfulness is the foundation of prayer. Gratitude shifts your heart from bitterness to hope. This applies even when praying for someone difficult. Find something—anything—to be grateful for: a past good moment, their God-given potential, or how God is using the situation to grow your character.

### ***2. Pray for Your Impact on Them***

Paul says, "Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith." (1 Thes 3:10) Often, our prayers are entirely focused on the other person. Paul teaches us to also pray about how God might use us in their lives. Whether it's a friend, a disciple, or even an enemy, ask: "God, how do You want to use me in their story?"

Be open to opportunities to encourage, equip, or even lovingly challenge them. Sometimes a simple text or sharing a podcast link can make a difference.

### ***3. Pray for Relational Restoration***

Paul continues, "May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon." (1 Thes 3:11) Paul knew that Satan was actively trying to hinder their reunion. So he prayed for God to overcome the barriers. We should pray the same for any strained relationship in our lives, including enemies. Romans 12:18 (NLT) reminds us: "Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone." Sometimes reconciliation is beyond our control, but prayer invites God into the process.

### ***4. Pray for Their Love to Overflow***

Paul shifts to pray for the Thessalonians themselves: "May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows." (1 Thes 3:12)

We can ask God to help others grow in their love—not only for fellow believers but also for everyone, even those who are difficult. It's also a moment to pray for our own heart: "God, help me love them the way You love me."

### ***5. Pray for Eternal Perspective***

Finally, Paul lifts their eyes to eternity: “May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people.” (1 Thes 3:13) Instead of getting stuck on temporary problems—whether it’s a friend’s trial or an enemy’s offense—pray for their ultimate readiness to meet Jesus. Pray for salvation, growth, and holiness. This eternal mindset transforms the way we pray for everyone.

### **The Bottom Line:**

Prayer changes hearts—starting with yours. Who do you need to start praying for this way?

Matthew 5:44 (NLT) “But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!”

### **Summary**

1. Start your prayers by thanking God for something specific about the person. Gratitude helps shift your heart toward hope. 1 Thes 3:9
2. Don’t just pray for others—ask God how He wants to use you in their life to encourage, equip, or speak truth. 1 Thes 3:10
3. Pray for God to overcome barriers in strained relationships, whether with friends or enemies, so that peace and restoration are possible. 1 Thes 3:11
4. Ask God to grow and overflow their love for others and to help you love difficult people as well. 1 Thes 3:12
5. Keep an eternal perspective in prayer by asking for spiritual strength, holiness, and readiness for the return of Jesus. 1 Thes 3:13

### **Reflection - How does this affect me?**

- Read the summary points above, including scripture references. What are your initial thoughts about these points?
- How often do you begin your prayers with gratitude for others? How could this change your heart?
- Can you think of a time when God used you to fill a gap in someone else’s faith or growth? What happened?
- Is there a relationship in your life where you need to pray for reconciliation or peace? How can you start praying differently?
- Who is someone you find difficult to love right now? How could you apply Paul’s prayer to that situation?
- Why is it important to keep eternity in mind when we pray? How does this shift our perspective on temporary struggles?
- Who is one person—friend or foe—that you feel prompted to start praying for today? What’s your first step?

# Isaiah 6 Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

D N X X Y N Y N X K A B R W B T T X L W X S W C A P B D C K X P U B K H  
N J J I W F O T E N O R H T U H H R E A G X E I Q T M C E A Z Q J S P E  
A E L C S T N C I G W O N G E J I S E C A F L S Q E T E W E V M E I X R  
T L I M L P O L V I L H N L F M E L E E N A F X N P P E R P F R S X K E  
S I Y O R V C Q Z E Q I O D H S E R A P H S Y O P L O M N G J K F W R A  
R Z O T E S J D E W K R E W Q F H F J P R V E G I X P E S D V A V I L M  
E K D R F D U A G E D L S M I V V S E U T C H S O A G H H T A O F N E I  
D R E B E O R G H S L N Y P Y L U J A L L Q T J I F K J U A O N U G D S  
N D L B A T L T I A P V E A I Q L J M X L E J R N Z I S T O F V C S E E  
U A A W H W N T C O S J W H O L E G M E N E O J I J N E T U U Y I E T N  
T V E T K E T N M I O A J E E R N T O I A F D J H X G Y H S A Q C P R D  
O S H Y E I H J A G R Z P W I R F A N F T R X E C W U E E S M Y A Q A M  
N N E S N R T M N A S F M U O D P G E O O V S D O L Z Y I T X O I G P E  
X A B G L L L O F E W Y G P M T M M N L E R Q E N B Z M R A W I K P E W  
T N D J W O L B C A N O T H E R H G O C C J U A Q G I X E K U Q E E D I  
C G N P S W V I T T C Y S W L B S H Q C U N G S J X A X Y E M F T H S T  
V M A T O L O E U D V M W P O E U K O K G H U B T S H K E N R W A I A H  
G M N H C V N O C D E C S P I L N A E L C N U F O N A M S F U W L Y H O  
Z K R R W T D L N O V A S T N L V Z M H Y H M X O D U L L R U S O G T U  
B E U A H E C I O V A W L J V T R U H F T H E G K E X Y C O B B S V L T  
U L T P T S M G R X Z L O Q L K O U J K B N O J W U L Q X M G C E D I I  
Z I A T W H O M S H A L L I S E N D O C A Q I L S U Q P I T L N D A U N  
K R O K A T Q C M D M L K P Z L E K E Y O G P B Y W S C O H T W Y P G H  
T L T C L X T Q E S I O U E V E I F G C D C C D E H I Y I E K O L X O A  
B L G U J Z N L A D D R H O U S E F I L L E D F E R O Y P A P E R F X B  
I E N N E D L S D L S D M I N L L X D W D O H C E W E L K L M I E N A I  
P V M D I I L O S O T O K U D N E H E R P M O C T O N T Y T Y S T J E T  
T J P P F K L G F H O F N H T U O M Y M D E H C U O T E R A G M T R H A  
O U R E T E O O L S F H U N T I L C I T I E S G O O J S D R T E U W E N  
N I B L P I L O K E T O Z I O I S R A E R I E H T H T I W N E T S I L T  
H O N J K E N R L R H S Q P U R S W T Z Y R O L G S I H F O L L U F U F  
R O G V E C R E H H E T E L P O E P T U O H T I W S E S U O H P L X C G  
Y W I E K T D N S T L S N I A G A D E N R U B S T U M P R E M A I N S P  
K G A O B J Y J J S A G P S D Y B H S H V J O X G Y B B Q H O L D I N G  
S Q Y E S E B I V E N P M U T S S T I S I D E E S Y L O H E H T Y L V O  
B H H M B V D P V W D I H Z V V U N H Q B K A R T V S P J Y T N S M M N

Find the **69 bold** words or phrases in Isaiah 6

In the year that **King Uzziah** died, I saw **the Lord sitting** on a **throne**, high and **lofty**, and the **hem** of his **robe filled** the temple. **Seraphs** were in **attendance** above him; each had **six wings**: with two they **covered** their **faces**, and with two they covered their **feet**, and with two **they flew**. And one **called** to **another** and said, “**Holy, holy, holy** is the **Lord of hosts**; the **whole earth** is **full of his glory**.”

The **pivots** on the **thresholds** shook at the **voices** of those who called, and the **house filled** with **smoke**. And I said, “**Woe is me! I am lost**, for I am a **man of unclean lips**, and I live among a **people of unclean lips**, yet **my eyes** have **seen the King**, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, **holding** a **live coal** that had been **taken from the altar** with a **pair of tongs**. The seraph **touched my mouth** with it and said, “Now that this has **touched your lips**, your **guilt has departed** and your sin is **blotted out**.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “**Whom shall I send**, and **who will go for us**?” And I said, “**Here am I; send me!**” And he said, “Go and say to this people: ‘**Keep listening**, but do **not comprehend**; keep **looking**, but do **not understand**.’ Make the **mind** of this people **dull**, and stop their **ears**, and **shut their eyes**, so that they may **not look** with their eyes and **listen with their ears** and **comprehend** with their minds and **turn and be healed**.” Then I said, “**How long**, O Lord?”

And he said, “**Until cities** lie waste **without inhabitant**, and **houses without people**, and the land is **utterly desolate**; until the Lord sends everyone **far away**, and **vast** is the **emptiness** in the **midst of the land**. Even if a **tenth part** remain in it, it will be **burned again**, like a **terebinth** or an **oak** whose **stump remains** standing when it is **felled**.” (*The holy seed is its stump.*)

## Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

January - cereal and instant oatmeal cups  
February - peanut butter and jelly jars  
March - canned milk and dry milk powder  
April - Mac n Cheese  
May - canned meats and fish  
June - canned fruit, fruit snacks and fruit cups  
July - canned or boxed soup and soup cups  
August - cereal bars / granola bars  
September - peanut butter  
October - canned pasta and pasta cups  
November - anything thanksgiving  
December - paper goods and personal hygiene items

In addition to the above list we are collecting Kleenex, Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer for the teachers and kids at AR Ware Elementary.

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The following list was shared by a food bank volunteer.

There are some excellent suggestions if you are ever unsure what to give, or if you see these items on sale. Fresh items should be taken directly to the food pantry.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.