

# *Order of Worship*

First Sunday after Pentecost

**June 12, 2022**

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## **Call to worship**

Come, weary one,  
**for God is in this place.**

Come, restless one,  
**for God is in this place.**

Come, hopeful one,  
**for God is in this place.**

Come, curious one,  
**for God is in this place.**

God is in me, and God is in you. So, in every place  
**in this place,**  
**God is here.**

## **Call to confession**

God invites us to a real relationship, a place where we are honest with ourselves, others and God. Let's start here, confessing the uncomfortable truth of our sin, together.

## **Prayer of confession**

If we say we have no sin, we are not being honest, and the truth is not in us. Therefore we confess our true selves: that we have often ignored our own privilege even as we benefit from it. That we have not listened to the pain of others but have instead dismissed it to keep ourselves comfortable. That we have not done the hard work of belonging to each other. We also confess that we are better than this: our sin is not all we are. With your help, God, we can change. We can listen. We can heal and bring healing to others. We confess this possibility, in the name of the One who makes all things possible. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon**

We belong to God. We belong to each other. God does not look at us and see only sin; God sees belovedness. Believe that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, in ways we may never fully understand. This is good news.

## **Prayer for illumination**

Soften us, God, so that we may approach your word without pride or rigidity. Show us, Jesus, what it means to belong to each other and to you. Stir us up, Spirit, that these words may be made incarnate in our lives. Amen.

## **Scripture readings**

## **Sermon**

## **Affirmation of faith (From A Brief Statement of Faith)**

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

## **Call for the offering**

We are called to hold the gifts we have been given with hands open, ready to share. We do not hoard or hold tightly to what we own because we do not own much but borrow it for a time. Let us give from a place of abundant love and mindful care, knowing with God there is more than enough.

## **Prayer of dedication**

Use these gifts, God, to do more than we could believe or imagine, building a world of justice and healing where there is enough for all. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

What does it mean that you are sovereign, God?  
Does it mean that you direct our days with a strong hand,  
marshalling us into obedience and servitude?  
Does it mean that creation is for the exercise of your  
dominion, for you to show your power and might?  
Or maybe, does your sovereignty mean something  
more like a pouring out: an emptying of the political words  
that  
do nothing; an emptying of religion that only serves to make  
a show of itself, to gain votes and money and power;  
an emptying of the very heavens themselves,  
raining down upon a weary world with something  
like joy; an emptying of our theologies of safety and comfort  
that we  
may be filled with the courage and creativity of the  
wild dreamers and builders of new worlds;  
an emptying of our borders of church walls and  
building projects and bottom lines, so that we can  
remember what it really means to be your people,  
to do church and not incorporate it,  
to live who we say you are in our every moment;  
an emptying of our deep places of despair and fear  
and rage and insecurity so that we can be filled like  
cracked cups overflowing still with a grace that cannot  
be contained.  
If this is what it means for you to be our sovereign God, we  
welcome it.  
We welcome you, birther of new worlds and new life,  
to come and disrupt our patterns that serve neither us  
nor you  
nor our neighbor.

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We welcome you, birther of new worlds and new life,  
to create something alive in us,  
even now,  
especially now.

It is in this recognition of hope that we pray in the way that  
you taught us, **"Our Father..."**.

### **Charge and benediction**

Go with the creativity of the One who made you.  
Go with the compassion of the One who claims you.  
Go with the courage of the One who stirs you to action.  
Go in peace. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Whitney Wilkinson Arreche  
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