



Order of Worship

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

Call to worship (Psalm 146:1-2, 7-10)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long ...

who made heaven and earth, the sea,

and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

God upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion,

for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation:

Eternal God, you are above all, and in all, and through all. Every joy and delight of life is a gift given to remind us of your glory. The flora and fauna of all creation tell of your creative power. We are grateful. Bless us in this hour that we might sing your praises, confess our sin, contemplate your word, and bring our offerings for the good of creation. All of these things we pray in Jesus's name, and for his sake. Amen.



Call to confession (Romans 6:1-4)

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?

By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Let us then confess our sin to our God, who has made us, who knows us, and who loves us. Let us pray:

Prayer of confession

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we recognize that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. So why do we treat life as though you are parsimonious with us? Why do we believe we must hoard our blessings? It is our sin that makes us live as though we don't trust your goodness. So forgive us, we pray. Teach us again what it is to rely upon you. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill us with grace and goodwill, that our hearts might overflow from the fullness of your love...

Declaration of forgiveness (Ephesians 2:8-10)

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one might boast.

For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand to be our way of life.

Believe the promise of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.



Prayer for illumination:

Almighty, eternal God, silence within us every voice but your own. Prepare our hearts to receive your lively word. May your spirit open our minds to receive your inspiration. And having heard your word, may we be doers of the word and not hearers only, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call for the offering

All that we have, all that we are is from God. Remembering the abundant life that God has offered us, let us dedicate a portion to return to God, the giver of all. The offering will now be received.

Prayer of dedication

Eternal God, from the abundance of your creation we have all we need. You have blessed us richly. Bless us again by receiving these gifts, multiplying them and using them, that we might see your kingdom at work among us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer:

Holy God, you have invited us into your presence, calling us to prayer for ourselves and one another. In Jesus Christ, the great high priest, you have given us an intercessor. It is with the assurance that Christ himself gives us that we draw near to you, knowing we will be heard, knowing that you will listen, knowing that you want to hear our prayers.

We pray for your world, believing that you who created it and sustain it by your spirit, love it still. Where there continues to be violence and bloodshed, year after year, we pray your presence and peace. We pray for all victims of violence, particularly gun violence. For leaders striving for peace and justice, we pray your blessing and your sustenance.

We pray for those whom society has forgotten. We pray for those whom we have forgotten: for those experiencing homelessness, the sick, the outcast and marginalized, those who suffer from mental and emotional illness. Open our eyes week after week and disturb us to action in order that we might live lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Let us not be complacent. Stir our compassion.

We pray for ourselves, merciful God. Where we harbor secret fears, we pray you will grant us relief. Where we are anxious over matters within our control and without, we ask for peace. Where we too are plagued by the same demons we identify in others, we ask for healing. Where we have allowed lesser gods to usurp your claim upon us and our lives, we pray for forgiveness.

We pray for those whose troubles are known only to you, O God, that you would guide us to offer a hand of grace in your name to them.

We pray for your church, O God. For the church universal, the Presbyterian church, and our congregation, we ask your blessing. Call us once more and give us a vision to be a light to all people. Make us the community of faith you would have us be.

We make these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together, "**Our Father...**"



Charge and benediction:

The bridging of the chasm is too much for us to do. The good news of the Gospel is that Christ has already bridged the abyss of our sin to bring us into God's loving embrace. What remains is for us live in the fullness of our humanity to the glory of God. Now may the love, grace, and communion of the triune God be and abide with us all, for this day and forevermore. Amen.

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