



Order of Worship

August 8, 2021

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Call to worship *(from Psalm 130)*

We wait for the Lord, our soul waits,

and in God's word we hope.

Our soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with God is great power to redeem.

Call to confession

God invites us to a real relationship, which means being 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 the Belhar Confession)*

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways in that we love one another;
that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another.

We believe that we together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another.

We believe that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness;
pray together;
together serve God in this world;
and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.
We believe that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint.



Call for the offering (Ephesians 4:28)

Labor and work honestly with your hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Give, not as payment for a grace you could never afford, but as gratitude to the God who re-creates the world in love.

Prayer of dedication

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of compassion and courage,
Hear our prayers for the grieving:

Those who have lost loved ones to disease,
Those who have lost loved ones to hatred,
Those who have lost loved ones to indifference and injustice.
Bring comfort, solace and even joy.

Hear our prayers for the struggling:

Those who face addiction,
Those who face financial hardship,
Those who face painful relationships and loss of purpose.
Bring the equitable distribution of wealth, and a path forward.

Hear our prayers for the comfortable:

Those who think they've earned what they have,
Those who need to make a name for themselves,
Those who believe they are perfect.
Bring humility, generosity and honesty.

Hear our prayers for your church:

Those churches who are dwindling,
Those churches who are thriving,
Those many who are somewhere in between.
Your pastors who are weathered, worn, exhausted.
Bring vision beyond a building, and bring a true concern for others, and sabbath rest.

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Hear our prayers for ourselves:

Those who feel enlivened by worship,
Those who feel very little,
Those who feel dread, or anxiety, or worry,
Those who feel hope, or peace, or love.
Bring a sharing of burdens and a sharing of joys.
Bring a real relationship between us.

And hear us as we pray with one voice as you have taught, saying
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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