



## *Order for Worship*

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

**October 24, 2021**

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### **Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 126)*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
**we were like those who dreamed.**  
Then our mouths were filled with laughter,  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**  
Then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”  
**The Lord has done great things for us.**  
**Let us rejoice and give thanks!**

### **Call to Confession**

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship,  
the joy of following in his way.  
But sin clings closely,  
and we struggle to respond fully to Christ’s invitation.  
Let us seek God’s forgiveness  
so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

### **Prayer of Confession**

God of perfect love,  
you continually bring forth life,  
transforming sadness to joy,  
and despair to hope  
We are weak, but you are strong.  
Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true.  
We are seldom right, but you are never wrong.  
Forgive us, redeem us, transform us.  
Take away the sin that burdens us,  
and restore us to the people you would have us be,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Relentlessly, God seeks us out.  
With abundant grace and boundless mercy,  
God seeks us out.  
This is good news!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of Faith** *(from a Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



### **Call for the Offering**

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.

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

Merciful God, powerful and wonderful, eternally present and graciously close, we are grateful for what you have given us in Jesus Christ: life and love without end. Prompted by your Spirit and encouraged by your faithfulness, we lift to you the cares and concerns of our hearts, the burdens and the worries of our lives. We pray that the sick would be healed, that the broken would be mended, that the mournful would be comforted. We pray that warriors would yield to peace, that leaders would gain wisdom, that the forsaken would be gathered in. We pray that the sorrowful would be consoled, that the poor would be lifted up, that the anxious would be released.

We pray for children in their growing and for youth in their seeking. We pray for those making new starts and for those nearing a journey's end. We pray for those facing hard choices and for those enduring painful consequences. We pray for those filled with bitterness and for those who are just empty. We pray that your church might claim its potential, that the body of Christ might be strengthened by its many parts, that the work of ministry might be done with joy and thanksgiving. We pray for the courage to follow Jesus, for the faith to trust your promises to us, for the vision to see your kingdom among us even now.

We pray for all that you would have us pray. We pray for those for whom no one prays. We pray all of these things in the name of the one who ceaselessly prays for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Trusting in Christ, we offer together the prayer he taught us: *Our Father ...*



### **Charge and Blessing**

Let us go from this place trusting that God is with us and for us in every place.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you this day and forevermore. Amen.

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Liturgy written by John Wurster, pastor of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston and provided for free distribution.

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