



Order of Worship

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 30, 2022

Call to worship (Based on Luke 19)

As Jesus called to Zacchaeus, so he calls to us.

Jesus longs to abide with us:

Here in this place, in our homes, and wherever the body of Christ is gathered.

Jesus invites us, just as we are.

Let us worship God, who calls us by name, who came to seek and save the lost.

Let us praise God's name together!

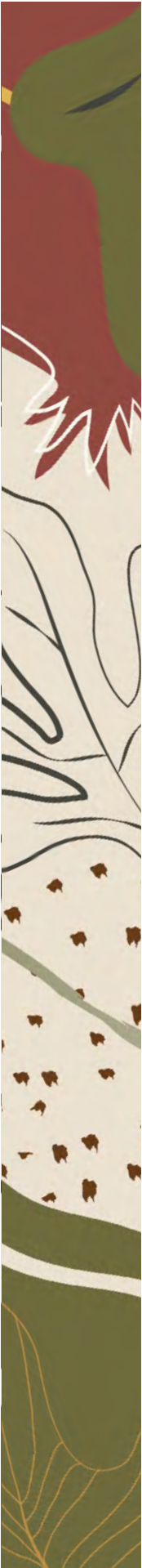
Call to confession (Based on Psalm 32)

The psalmist reminds us: happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Freed from the burden of hiding our shame and sin, let us offer our prayer of confession to God.

Prayer of confession (Based on Isaiah 1 and Luke 19)

Saving God, we confess that we are caught in systems of privilege and power, and escape can feel impossible. It is easier to give our sacrifices and offerings than to work to change the systems. We confess our complicity in injustice, our comfort in inequality and our ease in stretching out hands in prayer rather than service.

Forgive us, God. Strengthen us to answer Jesus's call to repentance, that we may learn to do good, seek justice and serve the oppressed. Amen.



Assurance of pardon

God's promises are sure, and God's faithfulness is from generation to generation. We are forgiven and reconciled by the grace of Jesus Christ. Salvation is here! Amen.

Prayer for illumination

God of transformation, open us now to hear and receive your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us ears to hear, wisdom to understand and courage to answer your call to us today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (From A Declaration of Faith)

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule.

Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time.

Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love siblings whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

Call for the offering

We have received God's grace in abundance through Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us respond by giving freely and generously.

Prayer of dedication

Holy God, as we offer our gifts, we ask that you use them to strengthen the ministry of your church, to meet the needs in our community and to bring us closer to reconciliation and restoration in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, we are so grateful that you call us by name, inviting us to abide with you. We thank you for the gift of community, for the connections that are made and strengthened in the body of Christ. We thank you for the gift of salvation today and every day.

We thank you for meeting our needs and granting us pleasures. Thank you for sycamore trees, pollinating bees, and the foods that fill our bodies and delight our senses. For the ways we enjoy the abundance of your creation, we give thanks.

We recognize that many in the world are not so well fed. That there are too many who go to sleep with empty stomachs in unsafe places. Our hearts grieve with those who are recovering from the devastation of natural disasters, exacerbated by our continued and careless consumption. We pray for all who struggle.

Thank you for the gift of community, for family and loved ones. For the ways in which our lives are enriched by others, we give thanks. We offer special thanks for all the saints who have preceded us in life or in death. Thank you for their faithful witness, and for the ways our lives have been enriched by them.

We pray for those who are lonely, who have lost loved ones or are experiencing estrangement. We pray for all caught in cycles of addiction and abuse. We pray for those experiencing mental health issues of all kinds, and especially for those in crisis. Help us learn to accompany and care for each other, grounded in God's unconditional love.

We thank you for the peace and stability we enjoy, that allow us to flourish and grow. We pray for your peace and justice to overcome violence, oppression and injustice in our communities and throughout the world. May we be instruments of your peace and messengers of your love, following the example of Jesus.

We entrust the prayers of our hearts, and those known only to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray by saying, **"Our Father..."**.



Charge and benediction

Jesus calls to us today:
Hurry and come down!
Receive the abundant love and grace of God;
Be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Salvation has come to this house today.
Thanks be to God!

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of our divine parent and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, today and always. Amen.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2022.

Liturgy written by Stephanie Sorge, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia and provided for free distribution.

For more resources, visit pres-outlook.org