



Order of Worship

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 15, 2023

Call to worship *(Based on John 1)*

To all searching for grace and truth,

Come and see!

To all searching for meaning and purpose,

Come and see!

To all searching for abundant life,

Come and see!

Let us worship God together.

Call to confession *(Based on Isaiah 49 and Psalm 40)*

God, who knit us in the womb, knows us completely. God inclines towards us and hears our cry. Assured of God's grace and steadfast love, let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we have been timid and unreliable witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Forgive us...

...for the times we have stayed silent in the face of injustice and hate,

...for the times our actions have not matched our beliefs,

...for the times we have hoarded our abundance,

...for the times we have turned away from your children in need.

For the many ways we fail to follow Jesus, forgive us. Invite us again to come and see, and to abide in your presence so that we may be transformed and renewed. Empower us to witness, with our words and lives, to the love and grace we've experienced in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of pardon *(Based on Psalm 40)*

Hear the good news of the gospel: God will not withhold mercy from us. The steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord is with us, now and forever. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.





Prayer for illumination

God of wisdom, by the power of your Holy Spirit, invite us into your Word. 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 Brief Statement of Faith)*

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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.

Call for the offering

Our generous giving is a witness to God's abundance against a worldview of scarcity. These gifts point to and enable the ongoing work of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond. Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

Prayer of dedication

Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all we have received. Use them to strengthen the ministry of your church to meet the needs of your children. May these offerings bear witness to your love made known to us 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 invite us to come and see, to experience your presence with us, and to abide with you. We thank you for the gift of community, and for connections that are made and strengthened in church.

We pray for the many ways we are connected to each other:

- ~ We pray for political systems and leaders, for wisdom in discernment, and courage to act for peace and justice.





- ~ We pray for families, especially those separated by circumstance or strife. We pray that you will heal the divisions among all the families of the world.
- ~ We pray for our communities and our country, that you would bridge divides and enable us to work together for the things which bring us closer to your beloved kingdom.
- ~ We pray for the church, that we would be faithful in our witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

As members of Christ's body, we offer our prayers for a world in need. We pray for all who are suffering, in body, mind, or spirit:

- ~ We pray for those who are living in or displaced from homes beset by violence, hunger and poverty.
- ~ We pray for the sick, the caregivers, the lonely, the imprisoned, the mentally ill and those struggling with addictions.
- ~ We pray for the abused, the neglected and the outcast.
- ~ We pray for the grieving, the angry and the hopeless.

(Other prayers may be offered at this time, by or on behalf of the gathered community.)

Loving God, we offer these prayers to you, including those that remain on our hearts, and those known only to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, **"Our Father..."**

Charge and benediction *(Based on 1 Corinthians 1 and John 1)*

Gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the testimony of Jesus Christ has been strengthened in us today. Let us bear that witness into the world, inviting all to come and see what God is doing, and to come experience the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

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

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2023

Liturgy written by Stephanie Sorge and provided for free distribution.

For more resources, visit pres-outlook.org



THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK