



Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 29, 2023

Call to worship (Psalm 27:1)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;

Who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord;

Who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Call to confession

We worship a God who stands more ready to forgive than we are to confess our sin. Our Creator, who is merciful and just, has promised to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Beloved, with such assurance, we do not need to fear confession.

Let us profess our sin, first together then in silence, to our God, who has made us, who knows us, and who loves us. Let us pray:

Prayer of confession

You have told us what is good, O God. Your hopes for us are clear. And yet we live as though it is unclear what you would have us do. We live as though we were not the recipients of grace upon grace. We have withheld what is not our own. We have judged where it was not our place. We have sinned by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We know that we have sinned. We seek your forgiveness and your reconciliation and strength that we may follow in the way you would have us go. Cleanse us and guide us. We make this and all our prayers in reliance upon our faithful savior, Jesus Christ.

Assurance of pardon (from Titus 2:11-14)

You have told us what is good, O God. Your hopes for us are clear. And yet we live as though it is unclear what you would have us do. We live as though we were not the recipients of grace upon grace. We have withheld what is not our own. We have judged where it was not our place. We have sinned by what we have done and what we have failed to



do. We know that we have sinned. We seek your forgiveness and your reconciliation and strength that we may follow in the way you would have us go. Cleanse us and guide us. We make this and all our prayers in reliance upon our faithful savior, Jesus Christ.

He gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Believe the promise of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Declaration of Faith)

God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness.

We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility.

We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people.

Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being, and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt.

We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well.

Call for the offering

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. From God's good creation, we have all that we need, indeed, we have more than we need. Let us worship God, then, by returning our tithes and offerings as tokens of our commitment to love and serve the Lord.

Prayer of dedication

Holy God, we have received from your gracious hand abundance upon abundance, grace upon grace. Accept these offerings, we pray, and bless them and multiply them, that through these gifts we might see your kingdom at work among us. We pray all these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal God, you have laid before us a path of wholeness. You have called us to genuine community, to love and to care for one another. You give us the gift of fellowship that we might help and support one another. All creation reflects the overflowing of your love. There is no prayer that we may offer that is not already close to your heart, so we offer these prayers knowing that you will hear them, with hope that in saying these things aloud, our hearts would be renewed in love for all you have



made.

We pray for leaders new in their roles, and for leaders who have led us for a long time. Grant all who serve the people discernment, patience and wisdom that they may seek solutions rather than the gratification of individual wishes and the building of egos and political capital.

We pray for your good earth, O God. Where we have contributed to the ravishing of your creation, we pray forgiveness and awareness. Give us the desire to live wisely as good stewards taking only what we need rather than blindly, foolishly squandering what is not ours to begin with.

We pray for those caught in the bind of economic hardship. We pray for those suffering unemployment and underemployment. We pray for those waiting in fear to see what their future will hold. Ease our anxiety, O Lord, and remind us of the care with which we are held.

We pray for our own community. If we are blind to the station of our neighbors, needle our consciences and stir us to action. Where we may be of service, lead us, O God, and give us the strength to follow. Open our eyes to people experiencing homelessness, to people living with addiction, to those who suffer from mental and emotional illness, to those who are outcast and suffering. We pray for victims of violence, and gun violence in particular. Help us to bring your shalom.

To that end, we pray for your church, O God. Strengthen the ties that bind us one to the other. Speak your word to us and through us that we may give hope to a hurting world. We pray for the Presbyterian Church, and we pray for our own congregation. Make us in the image of your kingdom and help us to follow your way.

We make this and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together: **“Our Father ...”**.

Charge and benediction

Go now, in the power of God’s spirit, to seek blessing in the places God would give it, to be the blessing God would give to the world, and in so doing, to be blessed. And may the grace, fellowship and communion of the triune God be and abide with us all.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2023

Liturgy written by Baron Mullis and provided for free distribution.

For more resources, visit pres-outlook.org



THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK