



Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 12, 2023

Call to worship (Psalm 27:1)

Steady our steps, O God, as we travel the journey set before us.

Let us walk in the way of light and pursue the path of peace.

Keep us on your course of life as we seek to be faithful

And as we gather to praise you, our faithful Lord and God.

Call to confession

Into the shadows of our isolation, God speaks the words of life and community. Through God's graceful, healing presence, God redeems our woundedness and restores us to wholeness.

Trusting in God's gracious provision, let us together confess our limitations and proclaim God's faithfulness.

Prayer of confession

Generous God, we are baptized as your people, called to live and serve together as your church. We confess that we have sought to live for ourselves, not reaching out to others and honoring the divine image in all your children.

Forgive us, we pray. In your abundant mercy give us the grace to be your church, confessing our faults, offering forgiveness and working for reconciliation. Turn our hearts to your intentions that we may hold fast to one another and draw near to your presence. In Jesus, we ask it. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we have been fed God's grace and redemption. And that redemption gives us the strength to love our neighbors near and far, proclaiming in our words and deeds:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!





Prayer for illumination

O God, what the world says and what you say are often at odds. Set before us now your truth as we hear your Word and as we respond in faithful trust. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. 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!"

Call for the offering

God's Word finds fertile ground each time we choose life, each time we share the gifts of God's grace and love. Let us gather our gifts and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Prayer of dedication

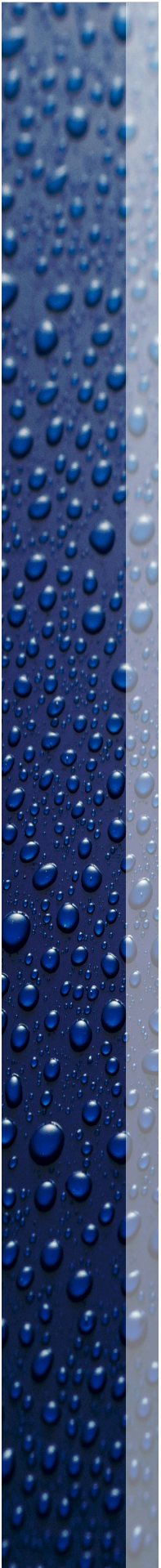
Generous God, you have planted the seeds of generosity into our hearts and by your grace, you give the growth through our actions and response. Receive the fruit of your mercy and the offerings of our lives and use these gifts to grow your harvest of justice and mercy, Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of grace and steadfast love, we thank you for our life and that we share it in community. We thank you for calling us to ministries of hope and compassion. We pray for your grace to do all that you ask of us: to choose life, to love you and our neighbors without reserve, not halfheartedly but with our whole selves.

Holy God, we bring before you the cares, the concerns and the joys that occupy us. We remember before you those who are at odds with one another: in families, in neighborhoods or offices, in communities and in the church and across political aisles and deep-seated divisions.





We pray for nations in the midst of internal and external conflicts and all those who suffer because of the conflict and violence and terror. We remember before you today those who have physical needs: people who fear for their safety and well-being, people who are hungry or thirsty, people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving, people who are sick or who will undergo surgery and people who live with chronic pain. Bring relief and rest, we pray.

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul: a worry that keeps us awake at night, grief that accompanies us everywhere we go; depression that clouds us or an addiction that grips us and those we love. Lift all of these heavy burdens with the light and peace of your presence we pray.

Sustain us over the long journey toward health and wholeness and give us trust in you, ourselves, and those who love us.

We remember before you not only our cares, but also our joys, all the things that are life-giving: a birthday celebrated, an anniversary enjoyed, a baby born, a new job, a new relationship, and a new day of your mercies.

We give thanks that with you there is always a new beginning, a way where there is no way, hope beyond hope, and life beyond death. Give us the courage to trust you as we choose your life-giving path, praying as you teach us, **“Our Father...”**.

Charge and benediction

We see what is set before us: life and death, God's ways and our ways, blessings and curses. In our response to God's mercy, choose life, embrace life, offer life, rejoice in life, trusting in the One who longs to bless us with life through the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Robyn Michalove
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