



Order of Worship

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 13, 2023

Call to worship (from Psalm 2)

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Call to confession

In the presence of almighty God and before one another, let us confess our sin and the things that hinder us in leading faithful lives as God's people.

Prayer of confession (Based on Psalm 69:1-3; Matthew 14; Hebrews 12:1-2)

Save us, O God, for the waters have come up to our necks. We sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; we have come into deep waters, and the floods sweep over us. We are weary; our throats are parched. Our eyes grow dim with waiting for our God. Gracious God, forgive us for taking our eyes off Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

When the storms of life swirl around us, we forget your unfailing goodness and power to save us. When we hear Jesus say, "Come," we make excuses about why it is too hard to follow him, especially when the way seems dangerous and challenging. Forgive our sins, Lord, and help us to step out in faith. Be merciful to us when we cry out, "We believe; help our unbelief!" In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





Assurance of pardon (from “How Firm a Foundation”)

Hear these words of assurance: “When through the deep waters I call you to go,/ The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,/ For I will be with you, your troubles to bless/ And sanctify to you your deepest distress.” Friends, hear and believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for illumination

How firm a foundation is laid for our faith in your excellent Word, O Lord! As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may our faith be strengthened that we may step out in faith and follow our Lord Jesus where he leads us. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Declaration of Faith)

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God’s kingdom. Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God’s kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.

Call for the offering

In grateful response to all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ, let us continue our worship as we present our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of dedication

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you in faith and promise to provide us everything we need for ministry in your name. Bless these gifts we bring, that we may use them faithfully to share the good news of your love and mercy. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer

God of grace and God of mercy, when life threatens to overwhelm us, we cry out as the psalmist did, “Save me, O God!” and as Peter did, “Lord, save me!” You are always there for us, reaching out and taking our hand,





offering your peace and calming our fears by your very presence in Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord. O God, hear our prayers ...

Lord Jesus, when you call us to follow where you lead, our hearts rejoice, but our fears sidetrack us. Open our hearts and our ears to hear your voice above all others. Then may we respond in trust, willing to get out of the boat, come to you, walk with you, and follow you through all of life's joys and sorrows, triumphs and challenges. Lord, hear our prayers ...

Holy Spirit, fill us with your power and your gifts for ministry that we might be faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus who says, "Come." Help us to focus on the abundance of grace rather than the scarcity that comes from fear. Teach us your truth that we may come to know, love, and trust Jesus Christ in all of life. Holy Spirit, hear our prayers ...

O God, we pray for your church in this place. When we are afraid to step out in faith, help us stay focused on Jesus Christ. When we are comfortable, stir us from our complacency. When we make our plans based on what we don't have, forgive us and remind us of your never-failing promise of abundant life in Jesus Christ. When we find ourselves sinking under the weight of our doubts, help us to reach out to you and take your strong hand that will lift us up.

We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, "**Our Father**"

Charge and benediction (1 Peter 2:5)

Come to him,
a living stone,
and like living stones,
let yourselves be built
into a spiritual house,
to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.
Amen.

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Liturgy written by Philip K. Gladden and provided
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