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## COF Worship, July 19, 2020, 10:30 am



Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach**

L: The Lord be with you

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts

**P: We lift them to the Lord**

L: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God!

**P: it is right for us to give our thanks and praise!**

Let us pray: **Gracious and loving God, we do approach you with thanksgiving and praise in our hearts and minds, grateful to you for our being and praising you for being with us. We are amazed at the wonder of your works and rejoice in hearing your name. May we feel that joy in fill our spirits as we pray together the prayer that you gave to Christ, for Christ to give to us: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*** Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p.362-3). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

**Song: Sanctuary**

*Lord prepare me*

*to be a sanctuary*

*Pure and holy, tried and true*

*With thanksgiving*

*I'll be a living*

*sanctuary for you*

(3x)

**Call to Confession**

Broken as we are

Living in a time of worry and fear and isolation

We are beloved people of God.

God doesn't "need" our confessions

But uses them to heal us

For we know that,

to admit you have made a mistake

Is the first step to making it right.

Let us share with God and ourselves and each other

The places where we have fallen short  
 As a community  
 As a people  
 As human beings.  
 Let us pray:

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Come, Lord God, to make us whole in the slow tread of seasons and in the quickstep of days. We have let the sound of angels singing be muffled by the sound of engines grinding. We have permitted to breeze of seraphim wings to be stifled by pavement heat rising. We have allowed our vision of Christ to be restrained by tedious acts of living. Give us, Lord, senses born of brisk belief that these hot days be filled with dancing. (moment of silence.)**

Lowery, James S. *Prayers for the Lord's Day*. Geneva Press, Louisville, KY. 2002. P.14

### **Assurance of Pardon**

As God hears our confessions,  
 may we hear God say in return:  
*I forgive you,*  
*I love you always,*  
*And I am with you.*  
 Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

### **Response of Praise** *Awesome God (refrain only)*

*Our God is an awesome God, who reigns from heaven above  
 With wisdom, power and love our God is an awesome God. (2x)  
 Our God is an awesome God,  
 our God is an awesome God,  
 our God is an awesome God.*

### **Passing of the Peace**

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of Christ be with you all.  
**P: And also with you.** *You may share the sign of peace with one another through text messaging and through the chat function at the bottom of your screen.*

### **Special Music**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

*Listen to the Word  
 Listen to the word that God has spoken  
 Listen to the one who is close at hand  
 Listen to the voice that began creation  
 Listen even if you don't understand*

**Scripture Romans 8: 12-25** <sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation

waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**Hymn** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n;  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.*

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind  
And the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word;  
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.*

**Scripture** **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43** <sup>24</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

**Sermon**

**Affirmation of Faith—Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Offering Prayer** *Thank you to all who continue to give!*

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, each one of us with our whole heart, and also with the whole heart of this community of faith. For the gifts you have given to us we will glorify your name forever. Accept our offering today, of heart, of love, of time, talents and financial resources and lead us to use them with care and boldness, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People**  
(moment of silence.)

L: Receive all these prayers in the tenderness of your mighty hand and keep us forever in the safety of your outstretched arm; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 110-111). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

**Song:** *God, Bless Your Church with Strength*

*God, bless your church with strength! Wherever we may be,  
Upbuild your servants as we work in common ministry  
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar  
Through open skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.*

*God, bless your church with life! may all our branches thrive,  
Unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.  
From you, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow  
Sustain us in our mission Lord, your love and peace to show.*

*God, bless your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,  
May we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.  
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share  
In humbleness O may we walk, assured our God is there!*

**Charge and Benediction**