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COF Worship, August 23, 2020, 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

L: What a great diversity of talents is represented in our congregation!

P: God has called us together to share our gifts and talents.

L: There are so many ways we can serve the Lord!

P: We pray that God will enable us to use our talents to serve others.

L: Let us live our lives as prayers of thanksgiving to God.

P: Let our hearts be open and our voices raise in song to God who continually blesses our lives. *MinistryMatters.com (adapted)*

Let us pray: **God of endless love, your truth is eternal, it never changes. Transform us in truth that our lives might speak to others of your love. Inspire us to confront injustice in the world, to promote peace and reconciliation. Help us faithfully to heed your prophets who witness in spirit and truth. Make us fearless prophets who will speak when and where you send us. For your eternal truth sets us free, through Jesus our brother, and the Holy Spirit. And now, gracious God, hear us also as we pray together the prayer Christ taught: *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.*** Leo Piguet *100 Prayers for Celebrating the Liturgical Seasons*, p. 137; and Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 18, p.363). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

Praise my soul the God of heaven, glad of heart your carols raise;

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me should sing God's praise?

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;

God is still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame;

Gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.

Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

Angels teach us adoration, you behold God face to face;

Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

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

Caring God,
you call us to be the body of Christ:
 to live in community,
 to care for one another,
 to use our different gifts.
Instead of working to sustain community,
 we follow our own desires.
Instead of trusting in your care,
 we think we can do it alone.
Forgive our neglect of others.
Give us obedient spirits,
 that we may care for one another,
 depend on your love,
 and use our gifts for your gospel. Amen.
(moment of silence.)

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 *Glory Be to the Father*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be
World without end, amen, amen.

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 12:1-8 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing*

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round? Sings in the night he giveth.

Refrain

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

Scripture Matthew 16:13-20 ¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon

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.

Affirmation of Faith *From "A Brief Statement of Faith" PC(USA)*

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

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 can separate us from God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 86-88). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.*

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Song: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, your pardon Lord, and where there's doubt true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace, where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;

Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Bridge:

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Charge and Benediction