

Toll free call in number! (844) 855-4444, access code 654132# (conference call only)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4182893102> Meeting ID: 418 289 3102

To call in to zoom worship: Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



COF Worship, September 13, 2020 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to.

Worship and Prayer of Approach

L: Rejoice with me! The lost are found!

P: There is joy in the presence of God

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting

P: The Lord's name is great among all the nations.

Let us pray: **Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together: *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. 18, p.375). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of Love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;

Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.

Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,

Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

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.
 us pray:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. (moment of silence.) Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 20-21). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

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 14:1-12 Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

²⁻⁴ For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

⁵ Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

⁶⁻⁹ What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for *God's* sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's *God* we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

¹⁰⁻¹² So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

“As I live and breathe,” God says,
 “every knee will bow before me;
 Every tongue will tell the honest truth
 that I and only I am God.”

So tend to your knitting. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

Hymn *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

*“Forgive our sins as we forgive”, you taught us, Lord to pray,
 But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.*

*How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
 That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;
 What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!*

*Lord cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
 Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.*

Scripture Matthew 18:21-35 ²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy

on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

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

Song: *May the Lord, Mighty God*

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever;

Grant you peace perfect peace, strength in every endeavor.

Lift up your eyes and see God's face, full of grace forever;

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

Charge and Benediction