

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

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



COF Worship, September 20, 2020 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

L: This is the day that the Lord has made!

P: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

L: May we live in a way that is worthy of the gospel.

P: **May we stand firm in the Spirit, side by side.**

Let us pray: **Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; 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.376). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!*

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of his spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

Refrain

*Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

Refrain

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:

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. (moment of silence.) Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 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 Philippians 1:20-30 Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, everything he wants to do in and through me will be done. I can hardly wait to continue on my course. I don't expect to be embarrassed in the least. On the contrary, everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die. They didn't shut me up; they gave me a pulpit! Alive, I'm Christ's messenger; dead, I'm his bounty. Life versus even more life! I can't lose.

²²⁻²⁶ As long as I'm alive in this body, there is good work for me to do. If I had to choose right now, I hardly know which I'd choose. Hard choice! The desire to break camp here and be with Christ is powerful. Some days I can think of nothing better. But most days, because of what you are going through, I am sure that it's better for me to stick it out here. So I plan to be around awhile, companion to you as your growth and joy in this life of trusting God continues. You can start looking forward to a great reunion when I come visit you again. We'll be praising Christ, enjoying each other.

²⁷⁻³⁰ Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they're up against: defeat for them, victory for you—and both because of God. There's far more to this life than trusting in Christ. There's also suffering for him. And the suffering is as much a gift as the trusting. You're involved in the same kind of struggle you saw me go through, on which you are now getting an updated report in this letter.

Hymn *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

*When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.*

Refrain

*His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.*

Refrain

*When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found.
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.*

Refrain.

Scripture Matthew 20:1-16 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *From "A Brief Statement of Faith", PCUSA*

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.*

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