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COF Worship, September 27, 2020 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

L: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth!

P: Worship the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!

L: On this Lord's day, let every tongue confess the good news:

P: Jesus Christ is Lord; glory to God!

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 19, 377). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Let us pray: **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; 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.20). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

*Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
 The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;
 With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
 To God all praise and glory!*

*What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth;
 By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
 Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo! All is just and all is right:
 To God all grace and glory!*

*The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
 An ever present help and stay, our peace, and joy, and blessing;
 As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
 To God all grace and glory!*

*Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud my praises
 That all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
 Be joyful in the Lord my heart, both soul and body take your part:
 To God all grace and glory!*

Call to Confession

Remember that our Lord Jesus
can sympathize with us in our weakness,
since in every respect he was tempted as we are,
yet without sin.

Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Let us pray:

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 56). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

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 2:1-13 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hymn *When We Are Living (400)*

When we are living it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying it is in the Lord.

Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God

Through all our living, we our fruits must give, good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in loves embrace,

Whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find, those who are crying with no peace of mind,

But when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Scripture Matthew 21:13-23 ²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed, **may we have enough;**

for the mourners and the mockers, **may we laugh together;**

for the victims and the oppressors, **may we share power wisely;**

for the peacemakers and the warmongers, **may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;**

for the silenced and the propagandists, **may we speak our own words in truth;**

for the unemployed and the overworked, **may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;**

for the troubled and the secure, **may we live together as wounded healers;**

for the homeless and the pampered, **may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;**

for the vibrant and the dying, **may we all die to sin and live to love.**

for those named in this assembly...(prayers are spoken), **may we have compassion.**

(moment of silence.)

O God, in your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 97, 98, 101). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: Song of Hope

May the song of hope go with us every day,

Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,

Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,

Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Charge and Benediction