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COF Worship, October 11, 2020 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

L: Praise the Lord! Give thanks to God for God is good!

P: God's steadfast love will be with us always.

L: O praise the Lord with me!

P: Let us exalt God's name together!

Let us pray: **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Make us ready to worship you by clearing our minds of any distracting thoughts and softening our hearts to hear your word; 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, p.375). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: *All Creatures of Our God and King* (455)

*All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O sing ye, alleluia!
 Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest us both warmth and light,
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou fertile earth that day by day unfoldest blessings on your way, O sing ye! Alleluia!
 The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them God's glory also show!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*And everyone of tender heart, forgiving others take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and cast on God your care!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*All creatures, your creator bless, and worship God in humbleness. O sing ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the father praise the son, and praise the spirit, three in one!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Call to Confession

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners. Let us make our confessions before God and one another:

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

(moment of silence.) Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 58). 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 Exodus 32:1-14 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’

⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” ¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Hymn *We Meet You, O Christ (311/476)*

We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise; your image we see in simple and wise.

You live in a palace, exist in a shack, we see you the gardener, a tree on your back.

In millions alive, away and abroad; involved in our life, you live down the road.

Imprisoned in systems, you long to be free, we see you, Lord Jesus, still bearing your tree.

We hear you, O Christ, in agony cry, for freedom you march, in riots you die.

Your face in the papers we read and we see, the tree must be planted by human decree.

You choose to be made at one with the earth; the dark of the grace prepares for your birth.

Your death in your rising, creative your word; the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

Scripture Matthew 22:1-14 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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: *Sent Out in Jesus Name (2184) – sing 2x*

Sent out in Jesus name, our hands are ready now

To make the world a place in which the kingdom comes

(repeat)

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain into a world of love, of justice and of peace

The job is ours to do, to set it really free, O help us to obey and carry out your will.

Charge and Benediction