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## COF Worship, October 25, 2020 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

L: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

P: Sing and give praise to God's name; tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Let us pray: God of mercy, grant that the Word you speak this day may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit to your honor and glory, for the sake of

**Jesus Christ our Lord;** (Book of Common Prayer (1549)) **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:** *O Sing to the Lord*

*O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song*

*O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song*

*O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song*

*O sing to our God, O sing to our God.*

*By God's holy power our God has done wonders*

*By God's holy power our God has done wonders*

*By God's holy power our God has done wonders*

*O sing to our God, O sing to our God.*

*So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets*

*So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets*

*So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets*

*O sing to our God, O sing to our God.*

**Call to Confession**

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us.

With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.**

**Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor**

**and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. (moment of silence.)** Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p.57, 59). 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** **I Thessalonians 2:1-8** You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

#### **Hymn** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

*Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve, the neighbors we have from you.*

*Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, master who acts as a servant to them.*  
*Refrain*

*Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race, Neighbors are near and far away.*  
*Refrain*

*These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love, all are neighbors to us and You.*

*Refrain*

*Loving puts us on our knees, serving through our loving hearts, this is the way we should live with you.*

*Refrain*

**Scripture Matthew 22:34-46** <sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup>He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup>He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup>‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? <sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**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**

**(moment of silence)** Receive all these prayers in the tenderness of your mighty hand and keep us forever in the safety of your outstretched arm; through Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

*Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 111). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.*

**Song: Called As Partners in Christ's Service**

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people young and old,  
Blending human skills together, gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

**Charge and Benediction**