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COF Worship, November 15, 2020 10:30 am

Including a *Service of Vacating a Church Building*

Bagpiper Bill Frank

Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Christ Candle

Statement of Purpose

Presbytery Moderator Bill Bogdan

As we gather for worship,
let us acknowledge with solemn joy
God's gift of this place,
remembering with gratitude
all who have worshiped here,
the faith professed at this font,
the gospel proclaimed from this pulpit,
the assurance received at this table.
Let us also reaffirm our faith
in our sojourning God
as this building is now made ready for other uses.

That which we have received from God

let us now return to God with thanksgiving. Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 550). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

L: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

P: They shall again live beneath my shadow,

they shall flourish as a garden; they shall blossom like the vine,

their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 551).

Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Let us pray: **God of transitions, pour out your Spirit upon us today as we mark the closing of this building, where we have lived and laughed and cried and worked together to be your people. As we worship you today, hear our joy and our grief; bless the time we have together celebrating this place and prepare us for our new space that is to come. Hear us now as we pray together the prayer that Christ taught: *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.392). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song *At the Font We Start Our Journey* (2114) (tune: 478)

*At the font we start our journey, in the Easter faith baptized
Doubts and fears no longer blind us, by the light of Christ surprised
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope held out and realized.*

*At the pulpit we are fashioned by the Easter tale retold
Into witnesses and prophets, by the power of Christ made bold
Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.*

*At the altar we are nourished with the Easter gift of bread
In our breaking it to pieces see the love of Christ outspread.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Life embraced, yet freely shed.*

*At the door we are commissioned, now the Easter victory's won
To restore a world divided to the peace of Christ as one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter's work must still be done.*

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

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.)

Assurance of Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 20-21). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

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 5:1-11 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hymn *How Firm a Foundation (361)*

*How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow.
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to the thy deepest distress.*

*"When through fiery trials thy path ways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.*

*"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I will never, no never, no never forsake."*

Scripture Matthew 25:14-30 ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I

have made two more talents.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Sermon Encourage One Another Rev. Sharon Carter

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

Litany of Praise **Presbytery Moderator Bill Bogdan**

Eternal God, whom the highest heaven cannot contain, much less a building made by human hands, hear us as we pray: **we praise you, O God.**

For the Church universal, of which this building has been a symbol, **we praise you, O God.**

For all the saints who, in times past and present, have formed a congregation of your people and have met in this place to offer their prayers and praise to you, **we praise you, O God.**

For those who have been made your children by adoption and grace, who in this place were cleansed of sin, buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, and raised to new and eternal life, **we praise you, O God.**

For your presence whenever your word has been proclaimed and your sacramental gifts of bread and wine received, **we praise you, O God.**

For your blessing upon each of your children, welcomed and nurtured here, **we praise you, O God.**
For all who came to ask your blessing in marriage, seeking to love with your love, **we praise you, O God.**

For faithful stewards who have lived for others, serving you by loving neighbors, **we praise you, O God.**

For all who, having lived this life in faith, were commended to your loving care and now live eternally with you, **we praise you, O God.**

For the knowledge that your church and your ministry among us will continue today, tomorrow, and forever, **we praise you, O God.**

All thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (pp. 551-552). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Declaration Presbytery Moderator Bill Bogdan

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, I declare this building vacated by the congregation of Community of Faith Presbyterian Church. Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 552). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: You Shall Go Out With Joy (2279)

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
They'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands
While you go out in joy!*

Charge Presbytery Moderator Bill Bogdan

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

P: Thanks be to God. Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 553). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Benediction Rev. Sharon Carter

The Bagpiper will pipe us out of the building. As we go, let us gather up paraments, crosses, the pulpit Bible, and other symbols of our worship and work, carrying them with us knowing that the work will continue.