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Join by zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89538972289>

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Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



COF Worship, February 21, 2021, 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

L: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

P: slow to anger and abounding in love.

L: God's promise is for all generations;

P: God's covenant is with every living thing.

Let us pray: Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who taught us to pray, saying: ***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. 233, 258). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Hymn *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*O for a thousand tongues to sing, my dear redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and king, the triumphs of God's grace!*

*Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.*

*Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, and sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.*

*My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and king, the triumphs of God's grace!*

Call to Confession

When we bring our confessions to God, we are also owning up within ourselves the mistakes we have made and the ways we have caused injury in our lives. Trusting in God's mercy, let us offer our confession to our gracious God:

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

L: 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.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p.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

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 22). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Scripture **1 Peter 3:18-22** ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hymn *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself,
O nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.*

*We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves,
O nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves.*

*You must go and stand your trial, you have to stand it by yourself,
O nobody else can stand it for you, you have to stand it by yourself.*

Scripture Mark 1: 9-15 ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *Apostles' Creed (ecumenical)*

I believe in God, the father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven; he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering prayer *thank you to all who continue to give!*

God, whose giving knows no ending, we thank you for your generosity to us. In the offerings we give today may we find ways to bring hope to the hopeless, food to the hungry, and justice to the oppressed, to the glory of your abundant kin-dom. Amen.

Joys and concerns

Prayers of Intercession

For your Church in every place, that we may worship and serve you faithfully . . .

For leaders and people in every land, that they may know your way and do your will . . .

For justice throughout the world, that there may be peace and plenty for all . . .

For the earth you have made, that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory . . .

For all those who hunger and thirst, that they may be filled with good things . . .

For those who are ill or close to death, that they may know your loving care . . .

For those that we named in our sharing of joys and concerns..

And for those we name silently...

(Moment of silent prayer)

Receive all these prayers, O God, in the tenderness of your mighty hand, and strengthen our hands to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship Kindle edition (p. 24).

Going to Serve

Hymn *Blest Be the Ties That Bind*

*Blest be the ties that bind, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears our hopes our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

*We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

*From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and fellowship reign through all eternity.*

*Blest be the ties that bind, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred hearts is like to that above.*

Charge and Benediction