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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 28, 2021, 10:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

L: Together, let us worship God in the great congregation!

P: Everything on Earth shall praise the Lord!

L: In front of all of our friends and family, let us fulfill our promises to God

P: Everything on Earth shall praise the Lord!

L: Our promise to do justice, to live in kindness, and to honor God in all we do.

P: Everything on Earth shall praise the Lord!

L: May every living thing remember and come back to God

P: May everything on Earth praise the Lord!

Let us pray: **Father God, You are never far from us and we are grateful for your loving presence. May our worship today be pleasing to you; and may we be encircled by your love. We pray this through Jesus Christ our , 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.***

Hymn *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

Praise ye the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation!

O my soul, praise you, for you are my health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to God's temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters ye under great wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires o'er have been granted in what God ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord, O let all that is in me adore you!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before you!

Let the amen sound from God's people again; gladly for aye we adore you!

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

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. 59). 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 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Hymn *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

*Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.*

*Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.*

*Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still;
The Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.*

*Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly every danger brave;
It guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave.*

Scripture Mark 8:27-38 ²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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!*

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.

P: Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 25). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your holy name:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts (2x)

The whole world is full of God's glory (3x)

Holy is the Lord!

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Music and Quiet Reflection

Prayer after Communion

Going to Serve

Hymn *Arise, Your Light is Come!*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captives liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Charge and Benediction