

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live



Worship

October 16, 2022, 11:15 am

+Stand as you are able

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Centering Music

+Call to Worship

L: No matter how far from God we seem to be, we do not lose heart:

P: **For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

L: No matter how many obstacles we face in life, in the church, we do not lose heart:

P: **For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

L: No matter how hard it is to continually pray and work for justice, we do not lose heart:

P: **For the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will forgive and restore my people; when I will equip them for every good work; and when I will grant justice, for I hear their cries day and night.**

Let us pray: Eternal God, you remain constant through all of our striving, and patient with our ceaseless prayers. We seek your wisdom, yearn for your justice, and crave your blessing, for our own sakes and for the sake of the world. By the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Christ, who prays with us. **Amen.**

+Hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (#356)*

Call to Confession

L: Seeking to follow Jesus, we often wander down the wrong roads. Impatient with God's schedule, we rush off to do things our way. Let us confess our foolishness, that we might receive God's hope for our lives.

Prayer of Confession

P: **Your words are given to us, Author of Life, so we might be reformed, but we are intent on changing others. Your words are offered to us so we might be transformed, but we are focused on conforming to our culture. Your words are spoken to lead us into new life, but we hold our old ways tight to our chests.**

Forgive us, God of Wonder. Do not remember our sins, but continue to touch us with your steadfast mercy. Show us how to be persistent in living out

our faith, even as you were so tenacious in offering us your grace and life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Moment of silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

L: Jesus reminds us that we are to be resolute in our lives of faithfulness and service. The good news is that God is steadfast in filling us with love and grace.

P: We are forgiven people. May we live as sisters and brothers in Christ, God's children in word and deed, in hope and joy. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response of Praise *Gloria, Gloria (x2) (#576)*

Passing of the Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us share the sign of the peace with one another.

Anthem

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, the words of Scripture are God-breathed words—inspired by you and given life through the power of your Holy Spirit. By your Spirit breathe your word into us, so that we become proficient in the language of faith and equipped to proclaim the message we receive, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 31:27-34 27 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. 28 And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. 29 In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge.”

30 But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

A New Covenant

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say

to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness (#276)*

Gospel Reading Luke 18:1-8 18 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' 4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' "[b] 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Sermon *Exile and Promise* *Elder Lee Sanders*

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

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

I believe 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

L: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,

P: The world, and those who live in it.

L: Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord,

P: and of your own we give you.

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. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; in the way of Jesus the Christ, 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.***

Response of Praise *(v.1 only)*

SERVICE MUSIC

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

**Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People**

Taking the Word into the World

+Song *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (#210)*

+Charge and Benediction