



Order of Service

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2020

Call to worship *(Psalm 86:1-5)*

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Call to confession

The Lord preserves our lives. God abounds in forgiveness and steadfast love. Therefore, we are free to come without fear to the throne of grace and honestly repent of our sin. Come, all who want to confess, repent and be made whole. Come and call on the Lord who promises to hear our cries.

Prayer of confession

God of the sparrow, you tell us that the very hairs on our heads are counted. You assure us of our value in your sight and promise to never abandon us. Yet we act out of a spirit of timidity and not courage. We live as if our discipleship does not have life or death consequences for ourselves and for others. We keep silent when we should speak, and say much that ought not ever leave our lips. Forgive us, we pray, for the times we allowed injustice to go unchecked and inequity to persist without even a word of protest. In your mercy forgive what we have done and left undone. Help us to acknowledge Christ in all our actions so that he will acknowledge us before you in heaven. Amen.



Assurance of pardon *(Romans 6:9-11)*

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Friends, believe the good news, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Prayer for illumination

Gracious God, you come to us when we are yet far off and you welcome us when we even begin to turn toward you. In the chaos of these days, help us not to lose sight of you, your will, your way. Quiet in us any voice but yours so that we might hear the word you have for us this day, and then grant us the faith to go out and live it. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from the Confession of 1967, inclusive version)*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Call for the offering

Knowing that Christ came into the world to save sinners, and that Christ died for us and was raised in order that we might be dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus, we respond with gratitude represented in the giving of God's tithes and our offerings. Freely we have received; freely we give.



Prayer of dedication

Generous God, your love and attentiveness to us astounds us. Fathoming your grace stretches the lengths of our greatest imagination. We rest in the glorious truth that you created us, called us good and love us still. Accept, we pray, a portion of resources you have entrusted to us. Bless and use these gifts to care for your creation and show your children that they are beloved. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, we come to you now more afraid than we would like to admit. The fear of contagion surrounds us. The fear of economic hardship abounds. The fear that justice and reconciliation are impossible creeps into our consciousness even when we want to be a people of hope. As we continue to navigate the unfamiliar waters of a pandemic and the all too familiar storms of long entrenched inequity, we admit we are afraid. We name our deepest anxieties before you, knowing that you know them before we speak them. You tell us that even the hairs on our heads are counted and therefore we pour out our hearts before you, trusting not only that you will hear our cries, but that you will answer them.

Hear our cries on behalf of the oppressed and the exploited...let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Hear our cries of lament on behalf of those whose losses are too many to name and too heavy to continue to carry... give to them your easy yoke and your light burden.

Hear our cries of grief as we join with our siblings who mourn... comfort them until they see you face-to-face and crying and death are no more.

Hear our cries for the sick and suffering, the lonely and the shunned... heal them, restore them, help us to seek them out and bring them home in your name.

Hear our cries for those we love, those we are called to love, those we find it difficult to love... grant us your Spirit of strength and wisdom so that we can live the commandment we know, the greatest commandment to love you with all we have and love our neighbor as ourselves.

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Gracious God, you come to us now, assuring us of your presence with us and your power working through us. In confidence that perfect love casts out fear, we commit to seeking to live with unafraid faith, proclaiming boldly the good news of Jesus Christ that will set us all free. We make our prayer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray... *Our Father...*

Charge and benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.