



Order of Service

4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2020

Call to worship *(Psalm 89:1-4)*

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to
all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established
forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen
one, I have sworn to my servant David:

'I will establish your descendants forever, and
build your throne for all generations.' "

Call to confession

No longer enslaved to sin, but set free through grace to be
instruments of righteousness, we come before God to confess the
ways we fail to follow Christ and neglect to care for one another.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, our loyalties have been divided and we have taken your
grace for granted. You seek us out, but we attempt to go our own way.
You provide, but we hoard. You free us from enslavement to sin, but
we neglect to be instruments of righteousness. You welcome us as we
are, but we refuse to receive others in your name. Forgive what we have
been, amend what we will be, awaken us to the new thing you are doing
within and around us. Send your Spirit to shape us in ways that better
reflect the one we claim to follow, Jesus Christ. *(Silent prayer)* Amen.



Assurance of pardon (*Romans 6:22-23*)

But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Friends, believe the good news and be at peace: through Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Prayer for illumination

Lord, the noise around us is loud and the distractions intense. We yearn to hear your voice in order to know of your presence and hear again your covenant promise. Quiet our busy minds, calm our anxious hearts, come to us now and speak for we are listening. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (*The Confession of 1967*)

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 human beings 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

We respond to God's grace with gratitude made evident in the joyful giving of a portion of what God has entrusted to us. Freely we have received, freely let us give.



Prayer of dedication

Loving God, you provide for us in countless and surprising ways. You give us the gift of creation, the community of the church, the love of friends and family. You surround us with the great cloud of witnesses to inspire and cheer us. The Spirit intercedes for us and Christ right now prays for us. Accept and bless these gifts we offer in thanksgiving, use them to show others your promised provision. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Lord God, we bow in prayer humbled by the reality that you want to spend time with us. You long to be in relationship with us. You receive us and care for us, no matter where we have been, what we have done or how often we have neglected your will. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us, such grace beyond our comprehension. We rest in your compassionate presence, freed from sin and alive to the transformation you promise.

Awed by your mercy and kindness we seek to respond with bold faith. Strengthen our resolve to follow where Christ leads and obey his commandment to love. In a world overflowing with anger and division, send us to be ambassadors of reconciliation. In the wake of injustice and pain, use us as instruments of righteousness and healing. As creation groans for relief, make us bearers of hope and catalysts of life-giving change.

When our faith is tested and we do not feel up to the demands of discipleship, remind us that you provide. Help us to remember the ram in the thicket, the mana in the desert, the water from the rock and the feeding of the 5,000. Send your Holy Spirit to spark our imagination and embolden our witness so that none of your little ones are hungry or thirsty.

Free from sin and alive in Christ Jesus, we pray without reserve for those people and places, circumstances and situations that weigh on our hearts and minds this day ...

We ask you to provide healing to the sick ...

We look to you to ease the suffering of those hurting in body, mind and spirit ...

We plead on behalf of the long oppressed and for those still waiting for justice ...

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We yearn for you to guide all of those in positions of leadership to make decisions that reflect your will ...

We rest in your compassionate presence, freed from sin, alive and awaiting the transformation you promise.

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 *(from The Book of Common Worship)*

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.

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