



## Order of worship

21st Sunday After Pentecost

**October 25, 2020**

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### **Call to worship** *(Psalm 90:1-6, 13-14)*

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday  
when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

### **Call to confession**

The Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. In recognition that our ways have not been righteous and often we have gone down wicked paths, we turn to our merciful God to confess our sin and ask for God's forgiveness. Let us pray.



### **Prayer of confession**

Lord, we come to you with questions that are not genuine, seeking only your affirmation of our behavior and opinions. We assume our own righteousness and quickly condemn others in your name, forgetting that our ways are not your ways, our judgment not your judgment. We do not take time to examine our hearts and seek your will. We jump to conclusions and neglect a life of prayerful discernment. Help us, gracious God, to humble ourselves before you and listen. Give us the courage to hear your corrective word and act upon it in ways that reveal our love for our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### **Assurance of pardon**

Approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, in joy we proclaim that through Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life is gone, a new life has begun. Thanks be to God! Amen.

### **Prayer for illumination**

Lord, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We need not stumble in darkness, nor fear the night, because you send your Son to be the light of the world. In this hour of worship, we ask to be illumined by your wisdom and will through the power of your living word read and proclaimed. Amen.

### **Scripture reading**

### **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of faith** *(from The Westminster Shorter Catechism)*

- Q. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?
- A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.



### **Call for the offering** *(based on 1 Corinthians 12)*

There are many gifts but the same Spirit who gives them. There are different kinds of service but the same Lord. All of us are called to serve and share with generosity and joy. Trusting the abundance of our God we give to God our morning's offering.

### **Prayer of dedication**

Lord, you have blessed the work of our hands, given us resources and talents to share in your service, entrusted us with gifts to share for the building up of your kingdom. We rejoice that you enlist us to participate in your providential care for all creation. We celebrate the work of your Spirit in us and in our world and through these gifts we give to you in faith and hope. Bless and use them in ways we may never see but can nonetheless trust. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

Almighty God, as the days shorten and the leaves fall from the trees, we turn to you, our unfailing source of light and life. While we wonder what tomorrow will bring, we are certain of your love for us no matter what challenges we face. We trust your promise to never abandon us and your power to uphold us all our days. We marvel that you choose to be in relationship with us, forgiving us repeatedly and surrounding us with grace daily. Confident in your never-changing character of mercy and kindness, we turn to you know in prayer, laying bare our hopes, our fears and the longings of our hearts.

Alpha and Omega, there is no corner of creation that does not belong to you, that is not beloved by you. We neglect our neighbors and ignore our siblings who cry out for help, but like a nursing mother, you cannot forget your children. Bring to our minds those for whom you would have us pray (silent prayer). As we remember the hurting and vulnerable you hold especially close, give us the courage to tend to them in ways that reflect your compassion and justice. Remind us yet again that when one part of the body hurts, we all suffer until that time we all rejoice together.

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God of all that is seen and unseen, you give us your commandments that we might live in ways that reflect your will and make abundant life for everyone. All of the law and the prophets is summed up in loving you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. We ask, therefore, that our love of you and one another be tangible and transformative. Send your Spirit to enable us to practice mutual forgiveness, radical hospitality, generous mercy and relentless kindness. Help us to be gentle with one another, with the earth, with those desperate for relief and compassion.

Loving Lord, we pause to rest in your presence. Knowing that we are approved by you to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, we ask to be bold in our witness and humble in our service for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, Our Father...

**Charge and benediction** (*Colossians 3:12-14*)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.

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