



Order of worship

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

Call to worship (*Psalm 95:1-2, 5-6*)

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture,
and the sheep of God's hand.

Call to confession

Our sin is ever before our God. We cannot hide from our Maker. We come to the Holy One seeking forgiveness. We seek God's wisdom and grace in order to better reflect the love and way of our Savior.

Prayer of confession

God you are merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Yet we test the limits of your grace, constantly turning away from you and toward that which is evil in your sight. We do not understand our own actions, why we know what is right but do what is wrong despite your clear commandments. In a world awash in hate and fear, we are to be those who love others and trust you. Forgive us when instead we resemble the worst rhetoric of our culture rather than the compassion of our Lord. We place ourselves before you, asking again for your transformative grace, honest in our confession because we know you will not abandon us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



Assurance of pardon

Our God is merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God hears our confession and responds with forgiveness and mercy. Friends, believe the good news and be at peace, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

Loving God, our minds race with busyness and worry, consumed by the headlines, anxious about the future. Send your Spirit to remind us of all Jesus taught. Open our ears to hear the wisdom of your word. Quiet in us any voice but yours that we might receive Christ's peace that passes understanding. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(The Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.



Call for the offering

God entrusts us with talents, not to hide or to hoard, but to share and use in service to Jesus Christ. Knowing that all we have comes from God, we return to God a portion of what has been entrusted to us. Let us worship as we give.

Prayer of dedication

Almighty God, we know that our talents are really not ours, but yours. You give us resources, gifts, skills and talents to use in your service. We want to be faithful stewards, wise but not cautious, generous and joyous in our giving. Accept, we pray, this offering, as a sign of our desire to be trustworthy servants of our servant Lord, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer knowing that our voices are accompanied by the communion of the saints and the Holy Spirit. When we struggle to find the words or cannot articulate our longings, hopes and fears, we trust that you know our needs even when we are unable to speak them aloud. We rest in your presence, trusting your compassion, rejoicing in your covenant love that refuses to let us go.

We pray that the church would be a near reflection of its head, Jesus Christ. When the world roils in violence make of us peacemakers. When the oppressed cry out for help send us to bring good news in the form of justice and relief. When your children are hungry help us to feed your sheep. May our unity in Christ be leaven for reconciliation and healing in our communities.

We pray for our nation. In the wake of a divisive election we recognize the tears in the fabric of our communal life. We do not have the power to overcome animosity and rancor on our own. We need your intervention and transformation. Grant those in positions of earthly power humility and wisdom, spiritual maturity and a willingness to listen. May each of us be catalysts for good wherever we have influence.

We pray for the welfare of the world. We do not want to neglect any corner of creation because all the earth belongs to you, Lord God, and you named every inch of it good. As we live and move and have our being in you, reveal to us how to tend and nurture all you have entrusted to us. Knowing that you make us stewards of that which does not belong to us, we ask for the courage to use all we have for your sake and in your service.

continued on the next page



We pray for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. There are those known to us who we name now (*moment of silence*). There are those known only to you who we remember in silence (*moment of silence*). Bring healing, wholeness, relief and peace to those most in need of your presence and love.

We pray for ourselves, that we would better love you and neighbor with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, 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
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