



Order of worship

5th Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Call to worship *(Jeremiah 31:31-34)*

God has promised to make a new covenant with us.

Our Lord has promised to write God's law on our hearts.

We will no longer teach one another, or say to each other,

"Know the Lord," for we shall all know God.

For God will forgive our iniquity, and remember our sin no more.

Call to confession

We know that all have sinned and fallen short of the way of life to which we are called in Christ. Yet we also know that if we repent and confess our sin, God's mercy is sure for each and for all. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of confession

Holy God, we confess that we have failed to live in covenant relation with you and one another. We have exploited our relationships with one another and the earth for private gain. Our hearts have become hardened to the suffering we have caused. Create in us a new heart, O God. Write your law in our hearts so that we will love you with all of who we are and love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel. In Christ, we are forgiven and restored to right relations with God and one another. God in Christ empowers us for justice-seeking in our world. God has made a new covenant with us. Thanks be to God.



Prayer for illumination

O God, you promised your new covenant with us. Help us to hear the words of Scripture as your Word of the new covenant established in Jesus Christ for us today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(Philippians 2:5-11)*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Call for the offering

God is the fountain of all good and has showered us with good gifts. In let us give all of who we are in return: our hearts, minds, energies and resources.

Prayer of dedication

O God, your gifts are manifest all around us and especially in this community of hope, love and peace. May the gifts we return to you this day be a sign of our commitment to do your work in this community and in our world to establish the flourishing of all your children.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the church, our neighbors in need and the whole world, saying: **Hear our prayer.**

Holy One, we pray that you would empower the church to be your beloved community on earth, to live in mutuality and tear down hierarchies that devalue some in order to benefit others. We pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

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Make us ever mindful of the sick, the homeless, the hungry, the prisoner, the lonely and isolated, that we might be agents of your love and justice to these your children. We pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer.

Enable all who live and work in this region to work for the common good and for the flourishing of all your children. We pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

Support the global community as it struggles with the pandemic — delivering needed aid and vaccines for all who are in need. Give each of us courage to take responsibility for measures that protect us all. We pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, *Our Father...*

Charge and benediction (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*)

**God has forgiven us and established a new covenant with us
in Jesus Christ.**

In Christ, God has written God's law on our hearts.

**May we go from here as a witness to the new covenant of
peace and justice for all.**

Let us lift up the brokenhearted

And stand with the oppressed.

And let everything we do be out of the love of God in Christ.

Amen.

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Liturgy written by Roger Gench
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