



Order of worship

6th Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

Call to worship *(Psalm 98)*

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before God.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord,
for God is coming to judge the earth.**

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Call to confession

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. It is new every morning. Great is God's faithfulness.

Knowing that we will find mercy in the presence of our God,
we have courage to confess our sins before God and each other. Let us pray together.



Prayer of confession

Merciful God;

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**Indeed, because we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**We have failed to be a people fully obedient to these commands;
we have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love.**

(silence for further confession of sin)

Gracious God;

Command what you will, and give what you command

Give us the love that you require of us.

**Fill our whole heart with love for you
that becomes a whole hearted love for our neighbor.**

Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

The Scripture announces that this is a true saying and is to be universally accepted: Christ came into the world to save sinners. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Friends, in Christ you are forgiven. Know this and be at peace.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God who has given us
the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word,

Assist us with your Spirit,
that it may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort:

to reform us,

to renew us according to your own image,

to build us up, and edify us into the perfect building of your

Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues.

Grant us this, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *(from Confession of Belhar)*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe ... that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;

in that we love one another;

that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;

that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

Call for the offering

In response to the love of God in God's great gift to us in Jesus Christ, we give now our tithes and our offerings.

Prayer of dedication

Without your love, Lord, we are nothing. Without your giving, we have received nothing. Without your gifts, we have nothing. Receive back these gifts of our love, that you may be always all to us. May our love grow even now as we give. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, look with love on your world that have so loved and do not grow weary in your love for us.

The nations are in uproar. Tensions mount; militaries arm and rearm. Open conflict, within and between nations, kills. Refugees languish far from home with no sure route of return. Communities are destroyed; families are broken. And the hatred of generations is passed to still another.

Send your Spirit to the nations. Diminish the fear and fighting. Establish the order within and between nations that offers mutual peace and makes for shared prosperity. Return the refugee to her home and the child to his father. And let that child raise children without hatred or suspicion.

The peoples are ailing. One virus has spread over the globe. Millions die; death tolls are daily and without interruption. Vaccines multiply, as do viral variants. Mistrust has grown among us and united efforts have suffered because of it. Lives are lost, individuals isolated, employment interrupted, resources strained.

Send your Spirit to the peoples. Heal the nations. Strengthen the medical workers and the caregivers. Abide with the lonely, supply the poor. Enter the home of those who are alone, and those in care facilities. Fill the cupboard of the unemployed and the courage of those who would employ them. Make this a time of reconciling the alienated and learning again how to trust and be trustworthy.

And wherever you send your Spirit, send us. Send that we too may not grow weary of your world but ever so love it. In Christ's name we pray the prayer he taught us: *Our father ...*



Charge and benediction

Go out into the world in peace.
Have courage.
Hold on to what is good.
Repay no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint-hearted.
Support the weak.
Help the suffering.
Honor all people.
Love and serve the Lord,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Jerry Andrews, pastor
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