



## *Order of worship*

June 13, 2021

### **Third Sunday after Pentecost**

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#### **Call to worship**

Loving God, we come today  
yearning for that which is trustworthy.

**We come as those needing to be surprised  
by your unexpected answers.**

We come remembering how you, O Lord,  
work through things we dismiss and overlook.

**Grant us new eyes to see your works, Gracious God,  
And new hearts to love the world as you love us.**

#### **Call to confession**

Scripture reminds us that our sins are like scarlet. But we are invited to confess those sins to a God who has always seen beyond our limitations, faults and failures. Let us turn again to our God of abundant grace and ready mercy.

#### **Prayer of confession**

God of generations and eons, we come to you confessing that we prefer the deceptive comfort of our short attention span. Lord of all things, small and large, we acknowledge that we seek after the “bigger and better” version of our lives. Creator who offers us the peace that passes all understanding, we know the meaning of Scripture’s plea: “Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.”

God of unending patience and mercy, relieve us of the tyranny of believing that we see all there is. Renew in us faith and trust the grandeur of your time-transcending providence. Grant us the gift of faith that rests in things unseen. Teach us, again and again, what it means to trust in you. Amen



### **Declaration of forgiveness**

Friends, hear the good news.  
Our God is always a step ahead of us,  
calling us to grow in the gift of our forgiveness  
made available to us in Christ Jesus.

### **Prayer for illumination**

Sovereign God,  
Quiet all the voices within our heads, hearts and spirits.  
Open our ears that we may receive your truth  
above the din of the world.  
And open us anew to how you work through  
the smallest, least likely things, even us,  
to advance your kingdom on earth. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of faith** *(from the Confession of 1967)*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

### **Call for the offering**

Whether our response to God's grace today is the size of the mustard seed or the size of the bush that houses all of the birds, our Lord receives our gifts with the same gratitude and the same promise that it will bear abundant fruit in God's kingdom. So let us give joyfully.



### **Prayer of dedication**

We offer all of this grateful for your covenant — that, in all things, you are working your purposes out within our sight and well beyond. Amen

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

God of all times, places and peoples, we came today so full of concerns, confessions, hopes, dreams and questions. We came because the world is full of voices and distractions that would take our eyes off you and your will for us. We came seeking that which is worthy of our trust. We came because you promise us the sufficiency of faith, hope and love.

You are a God who hears all prayers and who is working out your will in ways we cannot always see. You are also a God who invites our prayers and petitions, for that is how we are called to be with you. So we lift up the prayers you already know are on our hearts, the concerns you know that keep us up at night, the worries and anxieties that ground us in our need for you.

We pray for a wayward world that loves violence and abides inequality that breaks your heart; for a nation in sore need of healing; for mercy and empathy for the one we do not understand; for those in our congregation and families who wait for news of a diagnosis, who are living with health challenges, who care for the sick and dying. May they feel your Spirit surround, embrace and encourage them.

Triune God, as we prepare to go out from this place, teach and sustain us as your children and servants, that we may bear witness to your unexpected choices and your wondrous and mysterious means of working in ways that we might never imagine.

For we pray all this in the name of the one who came to show us your love, Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:  
*Our Father ...*



## **Charge and benediction**

*Now go forth into the world, knowing that God sees within you the promise of the boy-king David and the potential of the mustard seed. And hear these words from the Apostle Paul to the new Christians at Philippi:*

Rejoice in the Lord always;e again I will say, rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

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Liturgy written by John Cleghorn,  
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