



Order of worship

July 4, 2021

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Call to worship (*Psalm 123:1, 3-4*)

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.**

Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those
who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Call to confession (*Romans 8:38-39*)

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Assured by these words of promise, let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

Prayer of confession

Holy God, we are quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to blame. We fail to offer others the same grace we receive from you. We hold ourselves up as superior and fail to address the patterns of dominance we perpetuate. Forgive us, God. Help us seek understanding and compassion. Help us accept the love you offer us and share your love with others. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (*Psalm 103:17*)

The mercy of the Lord is
from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Amen.



Prayer for illumination

Open us to your Word and your way, Holy God. Inspire us with your presence. Quiet our distracted minds and help us to focus on the message you intend for us today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from a Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

Call for the offering *(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything, you may share
abundantly in every good work.



Prayer of dedication

Inspired by your generosity towards us, we return these gifts to you, O God. May our offering today spread the hope of Jesus Christ to those most in need. Amen.

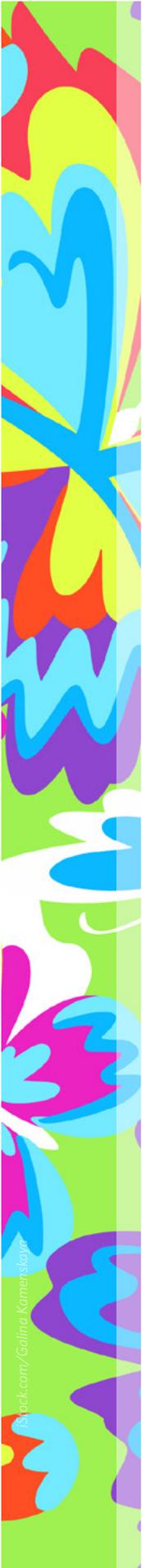
Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, because we are not strong enough to pray as we should, you provide Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to intercede when we go astray. In this confidence, we pause as a people to lift up our prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, lamentation and petition. We ask you to accept the prayers we make that serve your will and fulfill the vision you have for our world. God of mercy, hear our prayers.

As we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy on this Independence Day, we pray for peoples and countries struggling under oppressive regimes, abusive systems of power and coercive means of control. We pray for our nation's leaders who seek creative ways to address complex problems. We pray for the safety and well-being of our military personnel, especially those serving in harm's way. We pray for those who are traveling this weekend, that they might be responsible and safe. We pray for those in our nation still waiting to be freed from hunger, poverty and the ravages of injustice. God of mercy, hear our prayers.

Compassionate God, as we continue to move through this pandemic, we pray for health and healing. Lift up the depressed. Befriend those who grieve. Comfort the anxious. Fill all people with your Holy Spirit that we might bear each other's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. God of mercy, hear our prayers.

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers up to you, God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, *Our Father...*



Charge and benediction (*John 16:12-15*)

Following God's Spirit out into the world,
may we go in grace, go in peace, go in God's love for us all.

May the God of glory,
the Lord of life,
and the Spirit of truth
be with you all.
Amen.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2021.

Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org.