

Order of worship

August 1, 2021

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Call to worship (*Ephesians 4:1-3*)

Called to community,
we gather with humility, gentleness and patience,
bearing with one another in love,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

Call to confession

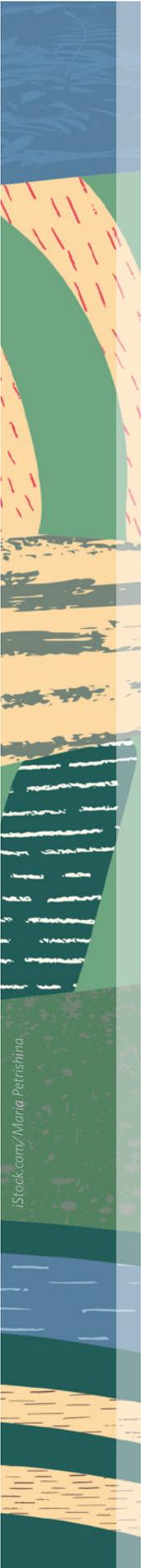
Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

Prayer of confession

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us mature in faith and relationship. Help us build each other up in love. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (*Isaiah 43:1*)

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
Thanks be to God; we are forgiven and freed. Amen.



Prayer for illumination

Eternal God, your Word speaks truth into our lives. When we humble ourselves to listen, you mature us with knowledge and strengthened faith. Open us to your Word read and proclaimed today, so we might hear and embrace the message you intend for us. Amen.

Scripture readings

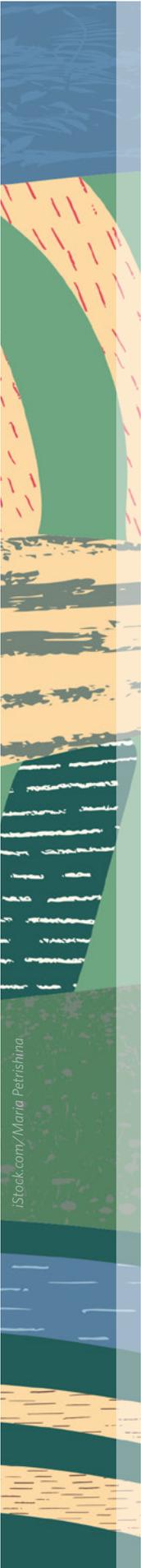
Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from the Belhar Confession)*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; 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; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Call for the offering *(Hebrews 13:16)*

Do good and share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.



Prayer of dedication

Take our hearts, our hands, our gifts, Holy God. Mold us, shape us, send us, so that we might be your body in the world you so love. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

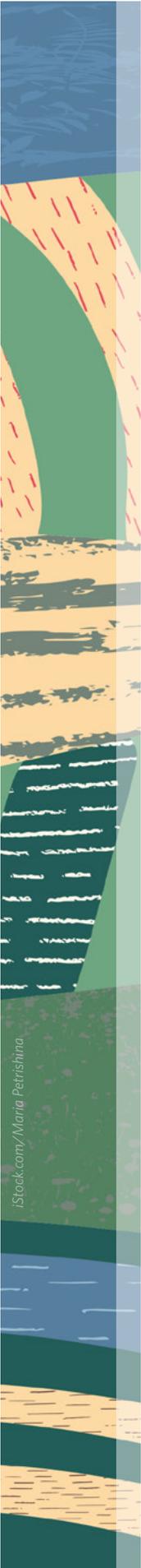
Loving God, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray in his name. Confident in your presence and your attention to us, we lift the needs of the church, our communities and the world to you in prayer.

We pray for the church, set in this world to be a model community, a body knit together in love. Help the church fulfill the calling to which we are all called, to live together in unity, to bear with one another in love. May the church reflect how people belong together and how our gifts are to be shared.

We pray for the communities in which we live and work; for people who are stressed; for the unemployed looking for work; for the elderly who are lonely; for the ill in need of healing; for all who are fearful. May we turn to each other in time of need, O God. May we build each other up so we can share the load of life's challenges.

We pray for our broken, yet beautiful world. Help us, Holy God, to hear the cries of the hungry and suffering. Help us set us aside human impulses of greed and vain ambition so we might strive for peace and justice. Help us reorder our lives so that all might have their rightful share of food, medical care and shelter, and our planet might thrive with renewed love and care. Inspire in us a love of our earth and all those who call this planet home.

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

Even in times of division and disagreement,
God does not abandon us.
Let us not, then, abandon one other
and the community to which we are called.
May we leave this house of worship today,
knit together in God's love,
bound as the Body of Christ,
guided by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2021.

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

For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org.