



Order of Worship

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

October 31, 2021

Call to worship (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5*)

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Therefore, we will love the Lord our God with all our heart,
and with all our soul and with all our might.

Let us worship the God who renews us and reforms us.

Call to confession (*1 John 1:9*)

Scripture tells us that if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's great mercy, let us now confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of confession

God of grace and mercy, we often say that we love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, but when we look closely at our lives, we confess that our hearts are full of concerns that are not your concerns. Our souls are neglected. You are barely on our minds, and our strength is depleted by things that do not have anything to do with you. Please forgive us our sin. Cleanse us. Renew us. Reform us. Make us ever new. We ask this in the name of the One who died to set us free, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

We may not keep our promises to God, but God's promises to us never fail. Friends, let us rejoice that because of God's great faithfulness, we have been forgiven. Amen.



Prayer for illumination

Spirit of God, we ask that you open our eyes and our ears so that we might see and hear a word from you. Transform us and reform us by your Living and Holy Word, we pray. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

Call for the offering

Trusting in the generosity of God, let us now give generously to the work and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ in the world.

Prayer of dedication

Gracious and generous God, please accept these gifts that we have brought. May these offerings serve to draw others to love, honor, and serve you. Multiply these tithes and offerings, Holy One, and use them for the edification of your people all around the world. All for love's sake, amen.



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Reforming God, our world needs you. We have wandered so far from your ways and turned away from your commands. War, violence, hatred and greed prevail, so we ask that you grant us peace, hope, love and courage so that we can be the people you created us to be in this world.

Our nation needs you. Politics and fear divide us and drive us to our separate corners even though we are called to love our enemies and do good to those who curse us and despise us. Lord of love, we ask that you remind and empower us to be people of hope and reconciliation who stand up for righteousness, justice and peace.

Our church, your church, needs you. We don't know your word well enough to teach it to our children. We don't read your word enough to draw on it during our time of need, so we ask that you prompt us to imbibe in the Bread of Life and Living Water that are found in your word and in you. Remind us that you are the source of all that we need, and then send us to be your church in the world, all the time, everywhere.

We need you; each of us needs you. Please remind us that you hear our prayers and you answer them. Invite us again and again to draw near to you as you draw near to us. And hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying, *Our Father ...*

Charge and benediction

May we go from this place knowing that the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit go with us, guiding us, carrying us and reforming us, today, tomorrow and always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Gail Henderson-Belsito, associate minister at Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina and provided for free distribution.

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