



Order of Worship

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 14th, 2021

Call to worship:

Reader 1: "This may only be a dream of mine, but I think it can be made real." Ella Baker

Reader 2: "Transform yourself to transform the world." Grace Lee Boggs

Reader 3: "Wage love." Charity Hicks

People: A new world is being birthed. Let us pray for and participate in God's coming kingdom.

Call to confession:

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. In humility and faith, let us approach God in honest confession.

Prayer of confession

Eternal God, too often we settle for the way things are. We embrace what is comfortable and disengage from the work of necessary change. We fail to hope for a new day and a new world because our present reality feels good enough. Forgive us. Have mercy upon us. Fill us with the passion to live and work towards a world made just and equitable and new. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (*Matthew 9:2*)

"When Jesus saw their faith, he said...
'Take heart...your sins are forgiven.'
Amen.

Prayer for illumination (*from Psalm 19:14*)

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. Clear our minds of daily distractions. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

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

This is the good news *1 Cor. 15:1-6; Mark 16:1-9;*
which we have received, *Matt. 16:16; Rev. 22:13; John 20:28*
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared
first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Call for the offering *(2 Corinthians 9:11)*

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God.” Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Prayer of dedication

O God, maker and provider of all, you have blessed us with many gifts. Use us and what we have gathered to feed the world through your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Holy One, the stress and strain of these days weigh heavy. As we move into fall and as the days grow shorter, we are more in need of the hope you provide. Set our eyes to the sun, moon and stars. Remind us of the MORE of this universe plotted and patterned by your hand. Be with us in the small struggles as well as the great. Transform us so we can be transformational in love and service.

Creator God, you are our refuge, our comfort and our strength in times of disaster, crisis or chaos. Surround those who are suffering with your grace and peace. May those devastated by fires, storms or floods find the strength they need to rebuild. May neighbors turn to help neighbors in need. May we be each other's hope and help.

Lover of justice, you call us to support the poor and oppressed. By the power of your Holy Spirit make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace. Help us seek reconciliation through beloved community inspired by Christ's reconciling ministry among us. Empower us to work for what is good and equitable and just.

Compassionate God, look upon us with mercy and grace. Free our minds from prejudice, and our preference for violence over peace. Grant us the wisdom and humility to seek your way above all worldly ways so our path may be righteous and true. Guide us, God, in all things.

As a people of faith, we lift these prayers to you, trusting you hear us and receive us.

Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, "**Our Father ...**"

Charge and benediction

May we leave this house of worship
reconciled, redeemed and renewed
by our time spent in the presence of God.

May we leave this house of worship
full of the hope our Savior provides.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of the God the Creator,
Redeemer and Sustainer be with us now and always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
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