



Order of Worship

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 7, 2021

Call to worship (*Isaiah 43:1*)

He who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name,

you are mine.

Call to confession (*Nehemiah 9:17*)

God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, too often we turn only to those we know, people who are familiar, known and most like us. We fail to listen to marginalized voices. We fail to hear our stories as told by people from outside perspectives. Forgive us, God, and redeem us. Help us to seek your wisdom and your truth from people without power and privilege. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (*Psalms 34:22*)

"The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

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

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. As we approach your word, may we be ready to receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.



Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from the Confession of Belhar)*

We believe

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;
- that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
- that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.



Call for the offering (*Acts 20:35*)

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said,
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Prayer of dedication

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the good news of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer:

God who redeems, ground us in your ethic of love, tune our ears to voices long silenced, open our heart to each other and particularly those who suffer, and help us attend to the many extraordinary ways you are present to us in this world. In this moment of prayer, we pause to give thanks for...

- Our lungs that fill with every breath,
reminding us we are alive...
- Our hearts that beat within us,
leading us to love and relationship...
- Our hands and feet that guide and support us
in work and service...
- Our minds that contemplate your great mysteries
through Word and worship...

God of grace, we offer our prayers for the needs of others and commit ourselves to serve as we have been served in Jesus Christ. In this moment of prayer, we pause to remember...

- Those who are overwhelmed
by the burden of leadership...
- Those who are exhausted
from navigating uncertainty and change...
- Those who are ill and their caregivers...
- Those who are in need of courage
to embrace change and move forward...

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Merciful God, empower us to love and minister to all who are suffering. Break into our lives to reveal your eternal wisdom and your path of righteousness. Call us to journey together in common purpose and common mission, to be the body of Christ in this, your world.

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
emboldened by the Spirit
redeemed by God's grace and
reminded that the body of Christ surrounds us
for fellowship, help and support.

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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