

Order of Worship

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 6, 2022

Call to worship *(Isaiah 6:8)*

Hear the voice of the Lord, saying,

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People of God, let us respond,

"Here am I; send me!"

Call to confession

As we stand in the presence of God, let us confess the ways we have strayed and failed in faithfulness.

Prayer of confession

God, you call us to humble service, to love our neighbors and our enemies, to do justice and offer mercy. But we do not respond as we should. We pretend we do not hear your call. We excuse ourselves from Christian work, citing self-doubt and fear. Our desire for comfort outweighs our desire to do your will. Forgive us, God. Have mercy upon us. Return us to you and your way. Amen.

Assurance of pardon *(From Isaiah 6:7)*

"Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

You call us through your Word read and proclaimed, Holy God. May our eyes be opened and our hearts willing to follow where your Spirit leads. 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.

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Call for the offering

Friends, out of the abundance we have been given, let us present
our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Prayer of dedication

God, you call us to Christ's mission and ministry. Bless these
gifts that they might spread the hope of your good news, feed
the hungry, shelter the poor, comfort the suffering, and free the
captives. Bless us, also, so that our lives conform to the radical
love to which you call and expect of us. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Merciful God,

Hear our prayers for the church and the world, for all your children, no matter their place or position. Hear our prayers for the hungry and the overfed, the mourners and the mockers, the victims and the oppressors. All are in need of your wisdom. All are in need of your love. All must be encouraged to hear and heed your call.

As the psalmist says, "deep calls to deep," yet we splash in shallow water. Call us to deeper relationships, Holy God, by listening to each other in love and seeking the story beneath others' stories. Call us to practices of spiritual nourishment rather than the junk food that tastes good but fails to meet our deepest needs. Steep us in your Word and practices of prayer that stretch us and expand our potential. Surround us with community that calls us to account and encourages us to be our best selves.

No matter how far we wander, thank you, God, for always calling us home. We praise you for your grace and mercy. In these pandemic days of frustrating change and constant uncertainty, remind us that you are always our home, our safe place, our care and comfort. Thank you for the many ways you stand with those who are suffering and empower those facing unimaginable trials. Speed the day, Eternal God, when this pandemic will end, suffering will cease, your people can rest, and all creation can know your promised peace.

United as the Christ's body, we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, "**Our Father ...**"



Charge and benediction *(From Numbers 6:24-26)*

Listen!

Christ is calling.

May we leave this house of worship ready to follow Jesus and partner with others in faithful mission and ministry.

May God bless you and keep you, be kind and gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favor and bring you peace. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott,
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