



Order of Worship

7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 20, 2022

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 37:3-5, 7, 39)*

Trust in the LORD, take delight in the LORD, commit your way to the LORD.

We trust in God, who acts with justice and shines God's light.

Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for God.

Our salvation comes from the LORD, who is our refuge and our strength.

Call to Confession

The world says that we get what we deserve. When we believe that, we hide our true selves from God and pretend to be without sin or deny the reality of our falling short of our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us the truth. Grace is God's gift to us. God is merciful. God's love is the final word. Trusting in the grace, mercy, and love of God let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you call us to your merciful, gracious love freely given without expectation or strings attached. While we are eager to experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, we are quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace conditional for others. We would rather show mercy to those we judge worthy. We would rather extend grace to those who will show us grace in return. We would rather love those who are easiest to love.

Forgive us, Redeeming God. So transform our hearts with your amazing grace and unconditional love that our relationships are transformed as we extend your mercy and grace as an expression of our gratitude for your saving love we know in Jesus Christ. Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

God's grace overflows and brings us new life. Friends, trust the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious and Loving God, through your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to your transforming word in scripture that we may experience anew the height and depth and breadth of your love and be inspired to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scriptures readings

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *(from Philippians 2:5-11)*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Call to offering

God is generous beyond measure. With thanksgiving for God's generosity in our lives, let us be generous as offer ourselves and our resources for the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ in the world.



Prayer of dedication

Generous God, receive our gifts offered in joy and gratitude and do more with them than we can ask or imagine. In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

O Holy One, as you spoke your creative Word in the beginning, as you spoke through prophets and teachers, as you spoke through evangelists and apostles, so you still speak to us today. You speak to us words of invitation to live into your abundant mercy. You speak to us inviting us to seek your thoughts and live your love. You speak to us inviting us to delight in your grace freely give to us and all creation.

Your Word, O God, sings to us a melody of peace. A peace which passes all understanding. When our lives are filled with anxiety and worry, when our lives are filled with fear and uncertainty, when our lives lack direction or purpose or a sense of self-worth, sing to us once again of your life-giving love. Hold us in your loving arms and draw us deep into your very heart as it beats with the steady rhythm of your grace.

Knowing that your love is sure, knowing your covenant is steadfast, knowing your peace, send us out as your church, O God, as we join you in your ongoing transformation of the world. Where drumbeats of war and violence rage, may we sound the harmonies of peace and hope. Peace that is deep and true and just. Peace that blends our voices into a mighty chorus of hope. Hope that inspires and transforms even the most desperate of situations and circumstances.

As your church sings with our very lives, O God, give us a deep sense of joy as we bear witness to the power of your transforming love in Jesus Christ. This day we pray for the church around the world:

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For those whose witness of faith comes with great risk...

For those who need to know they are not alone as they work tirelessly on our behalf as mission co-workers...

For our beloved denomination...

For the church universal...

Be with our congregation, O God. Continue to blend our voices and weave our lives together in ways beautiful, faithful, profound, and holy. May all we say and do as disciples of Jesus Christ, who alone is the head of our church, be an offering of praise and thanksgiving for your steadfast love.

And blend our voices now with the saints who have gone before us and with disciples throughout the world as we pray as Jesus taught us, **“Our Father ...”**

Charge and benediction

Jesus calls us to live as his faithful disciples: to love our enemies, to do good expecting nothing in return, offering mercy and forgiveness to others just as God is merciful and forgives. Friends, live into our high calling in Jesus Christ. And go with the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Brian Coulter and Michael Washchevski, and provided for free distribution.

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