



Order for Worship

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022

Call to worship *(From Psalm 85)*

Let us behold the goodness of God!

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.

Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Let us behold the goodness of God!

Call to confession

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship,
the joy of following in his way.

But sin clings closely,

and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation.

Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may
know more deeply the joy God intends.

Prayer of confession

God of perfect love,
you continually bring forth life,
transforming sadness to joy,
and despair to hope

We are weak, but you are strong.

Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true.

We are seldom right, but you are never wrong.

Forgive us; redeem us; transform us.

Take away the sin that burdens us,
and restore us to the people you would have us be,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



Declaration of forgiveness

Relentlessly, God seeks us out.
With abundant grace and boundless mercy,
God seeks us out.
This is good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Prayer for illumination

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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.

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In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Call for the offering

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving
for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

Prayer of dedication

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them,
even as you use us to accomplish your purposes in Jesus
Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives.
Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Great God, in you is more love than we can imagine and
more grace than we can fathom. You have shown yourself
in Jesus Christ as a God who meets us where we are and
loves us as we are. We are glad for this day and grateful
for your many gifts. You bring good things into our lives,
more than we can name, more than we can number. You
give us the bread of life, sustaining our souls and feeding
our deepest hungers. You accompany us on our way. Thank
you for your abundant faithfulness.

Our hearts are full with many things today. Disease and
death and pain and sorrow are constantly among us. The
journey through these days is marked by uncertainty
and heartache. We are frequently overwhelmed by the
needs around us and within us. Some need healing, some
need encouragement, some need comfort, some need
assurance, we all need hope. So we turn to you asking you
to hear our prayers and grant what we need for the living of
these days.

We pray for our nation. We pray for renewed commitments
to our common life. Refresh us in the values of your heart:
justice, righteousness, compassion, mercy, peace. Help us
to find a unity of purpose as citizens and neighbors.

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We pray for your church in places near and far. May the waters of your grace continually refresh and empower us to extend the love of Jesus to all people. We pray for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for the clarity of our witness and the success of our mission. We pray for our congregation, for our life together, and for our efforts to follow in the way of Jesus.

Hear us. Hold us. Heal us. Help us. For the sake of our Savior, our Lord, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray like this: **“Our Father ...”**

Charge and blessing

Let us go from this place trusting that God is with us and for us in every place.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you this day and forevermore. Amen.

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Liturgy written by John Wurster and provided for free distribution.

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