



Order of Worship

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 2022

Call to worship (Based on Luke 18:14)

Leader: All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

People: We humble ourselves before our God, ready to hear and receive God's truth.

Call to confession

Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us embrace this time of confession with honesty and humility.

Prayer of confession

Holy God, your truth is oftentimes hard to hear. We confess our avoidance, our purposeful distractions, our prideful arrogance that keeps us from hearing and responding to your Word. Although you send us messages and messengers, we dismiss and disregard those who tell us we are wrong. Have mercy upon us, Holy God. Open us to hearing the truth no matter how it is conveyed. Amen.



Assurance of pardon (Book of Common Worship)

Hear the Good News!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ,
and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ
is a new creation.

The old life has gone;
a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace.

Amen.

Prayer for illumination

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us now to listen well. Open our ears to your truth. Humble us in your presence so nothing will stand in the way of what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon



Affirmation of faith (From Philippians 2:6-11)

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 death 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 for the offering

Let us give and live generously in response to all that God has done for us. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

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 of grace,
Nourish us this day through Word and worship. Strengthen our desire to discern and do your will. Focus us on your path of righteousness so we can walk steadily under your direction. Bend your ear to us, God of love, as we pray not only for ourselves but for people everywhere.

God of mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for those suffering the aftermath of natural disasters, for the lives, homes and businesses destroyed by Hurricane Ian. We pray for those who are exhausted, those struggling to pay bills and put food on the table, those overwhelmed by suffering and in need of a lighter load. We pray for those living in war zones, for the people of Ukraine and the women of Iran, people desperate for justice and peace.

God of mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for leaders, administrators, decision-makers who cannot please everyone, yet still strive to do what is just and right. We pray our nation's leaders: may they uphold those in need, defend the oppressed, and resist the idols of money and power. We pray for disputes to end, for people to work together, for our nation to know peace.

God of mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for those who are ill and their caregivers. We pray for those struggling with depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses. Free us from any shame or stigma that keeps us from acknowledging our need and getting the help we deserve. Instill in us a sense of mutual responsibility for the health and wellbeing of all your children.

Finally, O God, mold us for service so we can be the answer to the prayers we pray, according to your Word and inspired by the One who saves, Jesus Christ our Lord.

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers up to you, God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, **"Our Father..."**.



Charge and benediction

May we leave this house of worship today,
quick to listen,
slow to speak,
open to hearing and responding to God's truth.

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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