



# Order of Worship

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

**November 6, 2022**

## **Call to worship** (Hymn: "God is Here!")

Leader: God is here!

**People: We, your people, meet to offer praise and prayer.**

Leader: May we find in fuller measure ...

**People: what it is in Christ we share.**

## **Call to confession**

God privileges us with time and attention. Let us not squander this time but approach our Redeemer with a humble and honest confession.

## **Prayer of confession**

We confess our discomfort with uncertainty. We confess our desire for personal power and our desperate grabs for control. We confess our need for everything to make sense. And yet, Great God of mystery, there is so much beyond us and our understanding. Remind us we are human. Humble us in your presence. Help us rest in the faith that your grace is sufficient. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon**

God's grace is given freely. God's love is steadfast. Receive the good news that you are forgiven, and live liberated from sin to the glory of God. Amen.

## **Prayer for illumination**

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your way. Clear our minds of daily distractions. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.



## **Scripture readings**

## **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of faith (From a Brief Statement of Faith)**

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

### **Call for the offering** (2 Corinthians 9:7)

"God loves a cheerful giver." Let us present our tithes and offerings to God.



## **Prayer of dedication**

Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

God of glory, we behold your creation with wonder and blossom under the nurturing care of your love. As a stream carves a path through rock, your Spirit guides us through the rough and confounding patches of life. There is so much we don't understand, God. So many questions for which we seek answers. We praise you for your presence, for the audience you grant us as we ask, seek and knock at your door. In this time of prayer, grant us your wisdom and your grace.

The images of Ukraine continue to devastate us, God. Bombed-out buildings, mass graves, drones dropping grenades on civilian targets: these are scenes that fan the flame of rage and lead our cries for justice. Vindicate those who have lost everything to evil, warring leaders. Redeem and restore the lives of the innocent.

We see, too, the women of Iran, protesting their restrictive lives and storming the streets despite the risk. Vindicate the life of Mahsa Amini, God, and all those oppressed by patriarchy, power, and a code of purity to which no human can adhere. Mothering God, protect these women who have had enough, who boldly question the unquestioned regime and who risk imprisonment for the sake of freedom.

Steadfast God, you sent your son to live among us, to suffer as we suffer. We know you hear our prayers for the sick, the grieving, the victims of violence, the lonely, the tired, the overwhelmed, the frantic. We know you know the plight of the poor, the unhoused, the hungry, the marginalized. We know you are here for the dying, the despairing and the desperate. Help us, Holy God, to be here too — to be your hands and feet, to be your witnesses and bearers of your good news.

Now, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying together, **"Our Father..."**



## **Charge and benediction**

May we leave this house of worship today,  
redeemed by grace  
renewed in faith, and  
restored to hope.

May God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, bless us and  
keep us as we leave to love and serve. Amen.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2022.

Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott  
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,  
visit [pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org)