



Order of Worship

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2022

Call to worship (Based on Psalm 98)

We give thanks to you, God,
for you have done marvelous things.
Let the waters clap their hands.
Let the trees dance.
Let the birds sing for joy.
May we remember together,
today and every day,
that you have done marvelous things.

Call to confession

We are imperfect. God calls us to be bold, and we seek comfort. God calls us to love others, and we put ourselves first. God calls us to care deeply, and we choose to be numb.
Let us be honest with God and each other as we speak our shortcomings plainly, knowing that our creator hears us and will not turn away.

Prayer of confession

Almighty God, we have fallen short. We have harbored hate. We have celebrated the pain of others. We have chosen what is easy instead of what we know is right. Empower us that we may not grow weary. Teach us that we may know what is right. We silently name our failures and lay them at your feet now [Begin a time of silent confession].



Assurance of pardon

Beloved, we do not have to be perfect. Christ's love and God's grace covers us. All God asks is that we love the Lord. This love changes us. It defines us. In Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven, and your slate is wiped clean.

Prayer for illumination

God, your Word is a gift. Thank you for blessing us with these stories of faith and failure and redemption. May we find truth in them. Holy Spirit, we know you are in this room with us today. Please help us to hear the message you have for us today that we may go out from here and help to bring about God's kingdom in our lives. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (From The Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His life as man involves the church in the common life of men. His service to men commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of mankind so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of men in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on man's inhumanity to man and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of man's life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

Call for the offering

We have freely received God's marvelous grace through Jesus Christ. Let us respond with generosity.

Prayer of dedication

Holy God, we give you these gifts. May they work in the hearts of those who give and those who receive them. Amen.



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Kind Creator, in the face of a world that feels on the brink of chaos, we take this opportunity to speak our gratitude that you know us and call us by name. In you, we find comfort. In you, we find meaning. We cling to your promise that there is a day coming where there will be no more tears, where we will not labor in vain. We also recognize that, through the Holy Spirit, we are called to work alongside you to bring about this new reality. And so, we pray for the world – not as it will be, but for what it is now.

We pray for those with the power to make decisions that affect others. We pray for Joe, for [insert elected officials from your area here]. Surround them with wise people. We ask that you protect their compassion and love of justice, may it outweigh any other factor in their decision process. We also pray for the political divisions in America. Help us to balance in our hearts and minds loving those who are different from us and fighting for what we believe is right. May all our actions be motivated by your Holy Spirit.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, who don't have enough power to heat their country as they head into the cold months. We pray for the people of Russia, who are not being told the truth. We pray for the people of Uganda, who are fighting an outbreak of the Ebola virus. We pray for the people of South Korea, who mourn those who died in the Halloween stampede in Seoul. We pray for peaceful transitions of power in Israel and Brazil and around the world.

God, we pray specifically for this community. We lift up [insert your church's specific prayer requests here].

As the days grow shorter, show us your light, God. Help us to see the life, love, beauty and kindness that we encounter on a daily basis. May we cling to the hope you offer, remembering and rehearsing the history of our faith, which has been passed down by God's grace from generation to generation. We entrust our prayers to you, remembering the saints that have come before us and the love of Jesus Christ that empowers us. It is in Jesus' name that we pray in the way we were taught, **"Our Father..."**.



Charge and benediction

Julian of Norwich wrote, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” Remember this hope – through Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit, God will make all things well. This is the foundation of faith. May we cling to this truth, allowing it to surprise us and inspire us along the way. Now, go and take it into the world.

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