



Order of Worship

Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 18, 2023

Call to worship (Based on Psalm 100)

Let all creation sing with gladness;

Make a joyful noise to the Creator!

Come and abide with the One who formed us;

Make a joyful noise to the Creator!

Give thanks, and praise, and bless God's name;

Make a joyful noise to God!

Call to confession

The proof of God's love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Assured already of God's grace and forgiveness, let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of confession

Almighty God,
You have promised liberation for your people, and reconciliation for all of creation.

We confess that we have grown weary of waiting. We have lowered our hopes, and scaled our expectations according to the world, rather than believing in your steadfast Word.

We confess that we have grown comfortable in our waiting.

We cry out for justice, if it doesn't cost us too much.

We proclaim your liberation, as long as it doesn't impinge on the freedoms that we value most.

We want to follow Jesus, healing the sick and doing good deeds, but we don't want to be mistreated or hated.

We don't want to stir up the dust, much less shake it from our feet.

Forgive us, we pray. Give us words to speak your liberating Word and endurance to persevere until your kingdom comes.

Amen.



Assurance of pardon

Hear the good news: God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness is promised to all generations. We are justified by faith, forgiven and freed, and at peace with God and each other through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

God of wisdom,
Speak again your liberating Word to us today.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured into our hearts, make us ready and willing to respond to your call to us today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Declaration of Faith)

We worship God in the world by standing before the Lord in behalf of all people.

Our cries for help and our songs for praise are never for ourselves alone.

We serve humankind by discerning what God is doing in the world and joining in God's work.

We find guidance in God's deeds in the past and promises for the future, as they are witnessed to in Scripture.

We affirm that the Lord is at work, especially in movements that free people by the gospel and advance justice, compassion and peace.

Call for the offering

Jesus sent the disciples, empty-handed, to carry out his work, trusting in God's provision for their needs. We give out of our abundance to continue the work of Jesus Christ in the world today. In faith and hope, let us offer our gifts to God.

Prayer of dedication

Liberating God, use these gifts to transform the world, to bring about your justice, peace and reconciliation for all creation. Transform us as we offer them, to be partners and co-creators of your beloved kin-dom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

In sure and certain hope of God's faithfulness, let us come to God in prayer, praying:

Incline your ear to us; **hear our prayers and supplications.**

We pray for a world that is still so far from God's good creation. We see the devastating evidence of our failure to care for the earth and everything in it. Wars rage, and siblings take up arms against siblings. We pray especially for those who are most impacted by environmental





devastation, war and lack of basic resources.

Incline your ear to us; **hear our prayers and supplications.**

On the eve of Juneteenth, we recognize that so many people still cry out for liberation. We operate in and perpetuate unjust systems built on the scaffolding of oppression of people, based on skin color, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender and more. Freedom and emancipation have been proclaimed throughout the land, but many are still in bonds today: in a broken justice system, in the prison industrial complex, and in child labor and sex trafficking that thrive under broken immigration policies and social support systems. Our lips cry out for justice, but the climb is steep, and our comfort often gets in the way. Make your justice roll down like waters, we pray.

Incline your ear to us; **hear our prayers and supplications.**

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. For all who struggle with mental illness, and addiction, and the impacts of trauma, we pray. We pray for the lonely, the hurt, and the estranged. We pray for all who live in chronic sickness or pain. Give us compassion in our relationships and encounters with others, who are fighting battles we don't know.

Incline your ear to us; **hear our prayers and supplications.**

We pray for the church, the world, and the whole human family, adding the prayers and supplications of your people...

Incline your ear to us; **hear our prayers and supplications.**

Loving God, we offer these prayers to you, including those that remain on our hearts, and those known only to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying **"Our Father...."**

Charge and benediction

Friends, there is work to be done. Jesus still sends us out into the world, to love and serve as the body of Christ. You don't need to pack a bag or bring a change of clothes; God will provide all we need.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us go into the world with God's liberating Word on our lips, until all are free, and all creation reconciled as one beloved community. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Stephanie Sorge and provided for free distribution.

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