

Order of Worship

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023

Call to worship (Psalm 78:1-7)

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that he has done.

The Lord established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

So that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep God's commandments.

Prayer of adoration

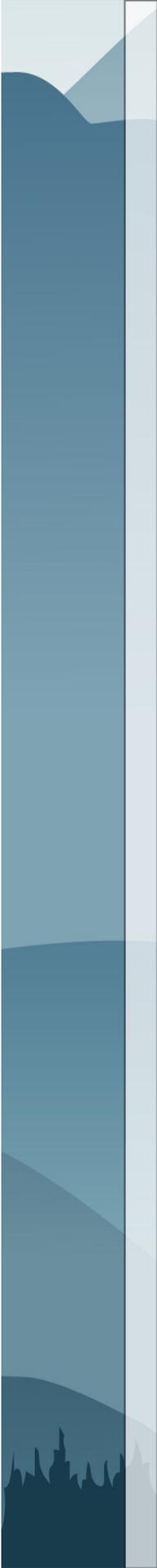
Eternal God, you are from everlasting to everlasting. Though the span of human life is brief, you are infinite. Centuries ebb and give way to millennia, yet you are the same. You have been our dwelling place in all generations, our protector in the storms of life. We praise you and we thank you for your boundless mercy that sustains us all of our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Call to confession

As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us, says the psalmist. With the assurance of God's healing mercies in our lives, we need not fear confession, but instead come with honesty, seeking wholeness in our own lives, and in the lives of those we may have injured. Let us confess to God those aspects of our lives in need of God's grace, first in unison, and then in silence.





Prayer of confession

Holy God, your way for us is clear: We are to live so that the manner of our lives speaks of your goodness, your generosity, your infinite mercy. Too often, though, we forget the purposes for which you made us. Too often, when we might meet inhumanity with the reflection of your goodness, we turn aside. We return unkindness for unkindness. We cling to what might be shared. We avoid those who are not like us. We fail to give grace in the measure we have received it. Forgive us, we pray. Remind us that your goodness is enduring, and your mercy is everlasting, for we pray all these things in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ...

(Time of silent confession)

Amen.

Assurance of pardon (Ephesians 2:8-10)

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one might boast.

For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Believe the promise of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

Let your Word dwell within us richly, O Lord. Let your truth ring as a clarion through the chatter around us. Hold us in this time, that your wisdom may shape us to the depth of our humanity, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

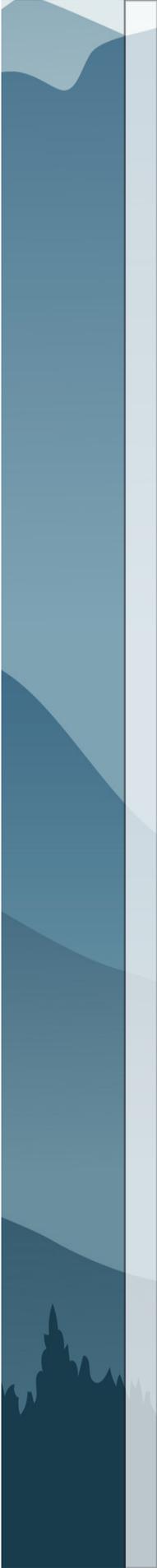
Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith amended for inclusive language)

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
of all genders, 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

The abundance of God's providing is evident: This world brims with goodness, amply offered that our needs may be met. From this abundance, we may take what we need. In recognition of what God has provided us, let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of dedication

Holy God, you have given us what we need, indeed you have given us more than we need. Accept this portion that we dedicate to your work. Grant that we might be blessed in turn as we see your reign at work in the world and in ourselves. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal God, from age to age, you have made yourself known to us. You have reached out to us so often, so persistently, we know of your love for us from so many sources just as we know we may draw near to you with the needs of our hearts. So we do, not as distant followers held at arms-length, but as your beloved children, held close.

So it is that we pray to you this morning with our concerns. For world affairs beyond our control, we pray your mercy. Keep us mindful of the people of Ukraine, who continue to endure grinding war. For the people of Israel and Gaza,* we pray for peace, knowing that you alone are the source of shalom, peaceable kingdom. For those in harm's way, we pray protection. We pray awareness and grace for ourselves that we may learn forgiveness in the face of enmity and prejudice. Teach us how we may serve you more fully in ways we cannot even imagine.

We pray for needs closer to home, for our own community. As pleasant autumn days give way to the cold of coming winter, we ask that you would open our eyes to the needs that are on our very doorstep. May we see those whose names are known to you and offer compassion and goodwill. We pray for victims of violence, and gun violence in particular. We pray for all who practice the healing arts, for their endurance and for their wellbeing.

We pray as well for ourselves, our own material and spiritual needs. Where our members suffer from illness and affliction, grant your healing





touch, bringing wholeness. For any in our midst who suffer from mental and emotional illness, or addiction, give us understanding and compassion. For those who are lonely, may we be a place of friendship, a warm haven where love is shared.

We make these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together, **“Our Father”**

**In the time that elapses between the writing of this prayer and its use in public worship, conditions will surely change. This paragraph should be amended by the worship leader to reflect current events.*

Charge (Colossians 3:13-15)

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord makes God’s face to shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of God’s countenance upon you and give you peace, this day and forevermore, **Amen.**

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2023

Liturgy written by Baron Mullis and provided for free distribution.

For more resources, visit pres-outlook.org

