

Order of Worship

Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2024

Call to worship (inspired by Psalm 50:1-6)

God summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Every time we encounter beauty, God's perfection shines forth, calling to us.

God's revelation is a devouring fire, burning away our doubts.

The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God is the creator, the redeemer and the judge

Call to confession

God is vaster than the night sky, brighter than the sun, and wilder than a tornado. Yet, God loves us enough to come to us in ways that we see and understand, including Jesus Christ. Let us open our hearts to God, confessing the ways that we have fallen short of God's call to love our neighbor and love the Lord. We can do so knowing that our Creator, who is both the Lion of Judah and the sacrificial lamb, listens.

Prayer of confession

Almighty God, when we encounter beauty and love and wonder in the world, so often we seek to control it, to contain it. Forgive us for all the ways we seek to pull things under our power, for the ways we fashion the world and put ourselves first. We are selfish, God. We push aside your command to love in order to seek comfort. Heavenly parent, we take this opportunity to acknowledge our lies and our denial, laying bare our hearts and minds before you now.

Assurance of pardon (John 5:1-18)

"Stand up, take your mat and walk." Jesus says to the crippled man he has healed. We, too, are healed. Transformed by Christ's redemption, let us get up and walk together.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer for illumination

Our God is the God who appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai and revealed God's self to Elijah in a "sound of sheer silence" (1 Kings 19:12).



This is the same God in our midst today. This is the same God who seeks us, who created us, who loves us. Holy Spirit, move in our hearts and minds that we might hear your message for us today.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (1 Timothy 3:16)

Great indeed, we confess,
is the mystery of our religion:
Christ Jesus was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit,
seen by angels,
preached among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.

Call for the offering

God gifted us with free will that we might choose to worship the Almighty in our words, actions and thoughts. Let us make the choice now to honor the Word of God by the offering of our tithes, trusting that our money, freely given, will be a blessing to God and our neighbors.

Prayer of dedication

Almighty, on the mountain top, you instructed Peter, James and John: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" We are listening, God, and we hear your call to make the world a better place alongside your Holy Spirit. We offer you these gifts and our hearts alongside them. May they be blessed to do your bidding.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Creator God, you are beyond our knowledge and understanding. We are full of wonder at your presence, and your revelation in your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Your love for us is awe inspiring. We put our faith in this love as we come to you today to express our communal prayers for the world, knowing that you hear us and that the mystery of your love and power and presence may extend to those people and places for which we pray.

God of all peoples, we pray for the world. Please be at work in places that are full of violence and suffering. We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine, Ukraine, Iran, and Ecuador. Please show us the path to peace. Put the right people in the right places to make decisions not for themselves but others.

We also pray for our own country, God. As we enter a presidential election year that will be full of hateful rhetoric and division, please empower us, your people, to be bearers of love. Help us balance your desire for justice and equality with your call to care for neighbor. May our churches be spaces of welcome where we can have faithful conversations that de-



velops and deepens all of our understanding. Please be with our political leaders, [name local and national leaders in your area]. Grant them the gifts they need to address the needs of our community.

Almighty One, your Word tells us time and again how you care for the poor, the abused and the cast out. We pray for those people now. We pray for those who are houseless. We pray for those who are poor and struggling to make ends meet. We pray for new immigrants to this country seeking asylum. We pray for the lonely. We pray for the sick. We pray for grieving. We pray for the cold and the hungry. If we are to play a role in providing these needs, Heavenly Parent, spark our hearts toward action.

Lastly, God, we lift up our specific community. We pray for [insert the prayer concerns for your congregation]. We know that you see us and hear us, and so it is in the name of Jesus Christ that we pray together, **“Our Father...”**.

Charge and benediction (Isaiah 40:31)

May our eyes be open to the ways the Almighty reveals the divine. It may not be as grand as the Transfiguration, but it is there: in the whiteness of snow, in the love of animals, in the joy of a good meal, in the beating of our hearts. Take time to drink in the wonder of this life, and then go out to share it with others.

In the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, may we know God’s blessing and be at peace.

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Liturgy written by Rose Schrott Taylor and provided for free distribution.

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