



Order of Worship

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 3, 2024

Call to worship (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18)

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Hear, O Church of God: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

And we shall love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might.

Hear, O children of God: there is another commandment like the first.

Yes: we shall love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

These two commandments are the foundation of our Christian lives.
Thanks be to God!

Let us worship God!

Call to confession (Hebrews 4:15-16)

The Scriptures tell us, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

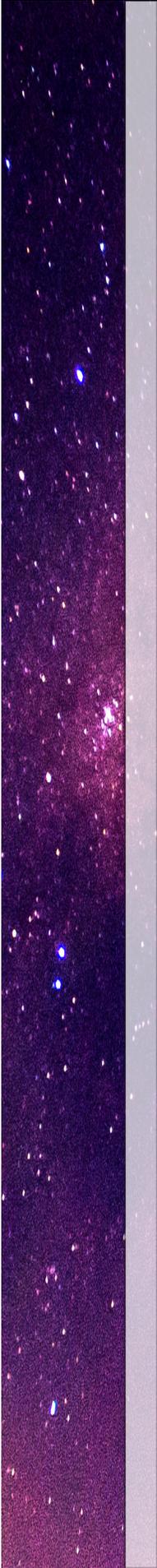
Prayer of confession

Gracious God, you have loved us by sending your only Son, but we have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and strength. In his life and death, Jesus showed us how truly to love our neighbors, but we love ourselves more than we love others. Loving God, forgive us for withholding our complete love for and devotion to you. Help us give our hearts and lives fully to you so our hearts and lives may be open to our neighbors, especially those in need. Lord, forgive us, love us, and guide us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

The psalmist assures us, "As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us." In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare to you, our sins are forgiven.





Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Prayer for illumination

We wait for you, Lord, our souls wait for you, and in your Word we hope. Open our hearts and minds to hear your Word read and proclaimed, that we may have hope and believe in the good news. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Declaration of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and The Shorter Catechism)

**God bound his people to himself in covenant.
Freed slaves became the people of God
when they accepted the Lord's covenant.
God charged them to respond to his rescuing love
by obeying his commandments.
Their life together was to express
the justice and compassion of their holy God.**

**Since we, too, are the Lord's covenant people,
we know we must be holy as the Lord is holy.
We must keep God's commandments,
not in order to earn or compel the Lord's favor,
but to reflect the character of God and to be his grateful and loving
people.**

What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

**The sum of the Ten Commandments is:
to love the Lord our God
with all our heart,
with all our soul,
with all our strength,
and with all our mind;
and our neighbor as ourselves.**

Call for the offering

With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God who has so richly blessed us.

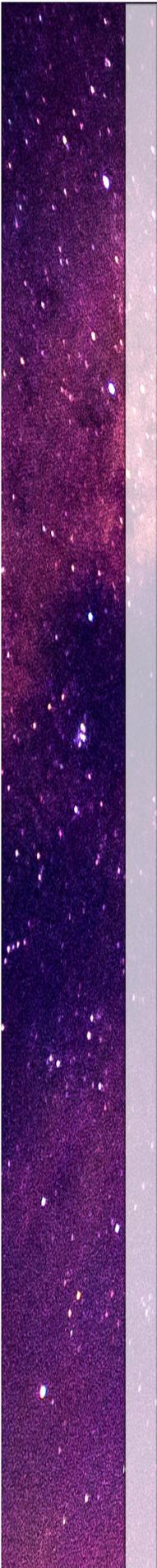
Prayer of dedication

Generous and loving God, we do thank you for the many blessings in our lives. As you have so freely given your love in Jesus Christ, may we freely share your love with others through these gifts we offer today. May they be signs of our devotion to you and our willingness to love in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you that in your great love you created us in your image, made covenant with us to be our God,





redeemed us by sending your Son to show us how to live of love, and sustain us by the power of your Holy Spirit who inspires and strengthens us to live for you and others. We pray that we will lead lives worthy of our calling as your people, lives that reflect the love, mercy, and compassion of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sovereign God, as we go to the polls on Tuesday to elect our leaders, we pray for our nation. We claim to be one nation under God, yet we are divided, neighbor against neighbor. Instead of seeking and working for the common good, we cling to our partisan stances and self-interest. Lord, forgive us and show us a better way to be a people committed to the principles we hold dear, freedom and justice for all.

God of all nations, we pray for your world and the peoples you have created and call your own. Help us to be faithful in our prayers for people in our country and around the world who are suffering from natural disasters, war, famine, disease, oppression and lack of freedom. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to be courageous and compassionate in our own communities as we work to make this world a better and safer place for all of your children.

O God, when we wonder what is our purpose and direction in life, remind us that you call us to love you with everything we are and everything we have. When we wonder how to do that, call us again to Jesus, who showed us in his life, death, and resurrection what it means to love you completely and to serve our neighbors with your love. Then, let us respond faithfully to Jesus's command, "Go and do likewise."

We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, "**Our Father...**".

Charge and benediction

Peace be to the whole community,
and love with faith,
from God the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace be with all
who have an undying love
for our Lord Jesus Christ.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.
Amen.

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Liturgy written by Philip K. Gladden
and provided for free distribution.

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