



Worship Guide for Presbytery Meeting, September 15, 2020

Prelude

Fantasy on Beach Spring

Craig Barth

Call to Worship

David Young

One: We have come because we have heard the call of God on our lives.

All: The call to sing the Lord's song in a strange land.

One: We call upon your name, O God, from the depths of our soul.

All: We are here to give witness to the current realities of our lives.

One: We have gathered to renew our hope in Jesus Christ
as we journey through these days.

All: Come, let us worship and bow down, for God is good.

One: God's steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Let us lift our hands and hearts toward heaven
because you, O God, reign forever.**

One: Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Amy Sandlin

One: Awesome God, our hearts are bowed down by the troubles we are experiencing. There is suffering and death, despair and doubt among us, and hope lies just beyond our reach in the shadows of the cross. We pour out our hearts before you, Lord, like water. Our eyes are spent with weeping, our mouths with cries of "how long." You have seen what has befallen us, O Lord. You have heard our whispers and murmurs at the pain that fills our souls. The joys of our hearts have ceased; our dancing has been turned into mourning. Yet, we thank you for bringing us to this place

of worship and discernment. Inspire us by your truth to listen to your voice speaking through people gathered here today. Grant us your wisdom and peace during these days and renew our hope. For you, O God, are our God and your steadfast love never ceases. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture

Lisa Fraebel

Lamentations 5:20-21; Ephesians 3:14-21

Creed

(From the Confession of Belhar)

Ken Nickel

All: We believe

One: In the one, triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

All: We believe

One: In the one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

All: We believe

One: That Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

All: We believe

One: That we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity. That this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

All: We believe

One: That God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

All: We believe

One: That, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering may be the consequence.

All: Jesus is Lord!

One: To the one and only God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

Prayer of Confession

One: God created us to be the beloved community. But too often we have segregated our communities. Today, we confess the sin of segregation in the confidence of Christ, who binds us together in perfect community.

**All: O God, while others bleed,
Many simply watch,
Separated by police lines,
And color lines,
And class lines.**

**O God, the sin of white privilege inoculates some against virus,
Some against exposure,
While at the same time
Exposing poor, brown and black bodies to disease and death.**

One: O God, your body refuses segregating, racist ways. In Christ's body,
Sandra Bland, 28 years old, and
Michael Brown, 18 years old, and
Taylor Hayes, 7 years old, and
Freddie Gray, 25 years old, and
Breonna Taylor, 26 years old, and
George Floyd, 46 years old,
Aren't statistics but people, siblings, co-workers, friends
And kids we knew in second grade,
A little girl who loved to dance, our nephew who dreamed of a future,
Until there was

**All: no future . . .
No dance . . .
And no tomorrow.**

A time of silence for personal prayer

**All: We confess, O God, the body of Christ is not whole
Without our inner-city neighborhoods, our prayer vigils,
Our street parties, our organizing, our breakfast ministries,
Our bodies black, our bodies brown, our bodies of color.**

**One: We confess, O God, Christ's body crucified...
We shout Christ's body risen.
A body for whom we fight, and teach, and organize.
A living body for whom we raise the battle cry and nothing less.**

**All: We come believing that the divisions of today
do not have to be the reality of tomorrow.
But in confession and repentance,
Moving beyond empty rhetoric into consistent action,
We continue, as Christ's body, into the beloved community. Amen.**

Musical Reflection *"Child of God"* Genna Hoover

Invitation to the Offering Clergy Care Fund Alec Jain

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer David Young

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done one earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Benediction

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*Special thanks to Jeanne Radak and Joe Radak for creating the worship video for this evening's service.*