

United Presbyterian Church

September 13th, 2020

11:00am

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Thanks for worshiping with us. Whether you are with us from the pew or with us via your computer screen, we're so glad you're here. Remember, worship is about God and we focus our eyes and hearts on the One who is before all things. At the same time, we know that when we gather, we receive gracious gifts and experience the love of Christ as one church.

To prepare for worship, read the Words of Preparation; read and reflect upon the Scripture passage for today. Be intentional about connecting with God in your worship.

Words for Preparation

*Bless us, O God,
with a reverent sense of your presence,
that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prelude

"Fanfare in G"

McDonald

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome Song

"Here in this Place"

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise

for the life-sustaining gift of water—at the dawn of creation your Spirit swept across the swirling of the deep; in the days of Noah you washed away evil from the face of the earth; in the time of Moses you led your people through the surging sea to freedom; by the rivers of Babylon you heard our cry and brought us home at last; in the waters of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit.

Children's Message

Hymn No. 332

"Live into Hope"

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. So let us be honest and confess what separates us from God and our neighbors, trusting in God's constant desire to forgive and renew. Trusting in God's mercy, let us invite God to search us, so that God might also lead us in the way everlasting.

(Period of silence for personal confession)

Prayer of Confession

God of judgment and renewal, we admit to you and each other that we have not always loved our neighbors as fully as you call us to love. We have failed to be good stewards of your creation. We have turned away from you and toward our own self-interest. We have been shortsighted, and we are humbly sorry. Help us turn back to you, O Lord, to reach toward you as a tree sends its roots out toward water. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Because Christ has been raised from the dead, sin and death do not have the last word! Our faith is not in vain. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we are forgiven and set free to live for God and neighbor.

Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Prayers of People and Lord's Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[b] times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him

the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Accountable"

Rev. Candice Womack

Affirmation of Faith

In the gospel God declares his love for the world and his desire that all people should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by his Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with all people to accept his gracious invitation. Since there is no other way of salvation than that revealed in the gospel, and since in the divinely established and ordinary method of grace, faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God; Christ has commissioned his church to go into all the world and to make disciples of all nations.

(Westminster Confession, 6.056, 6.058)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

(Please use this time for silent prayer and reflection as you consider ways to offer your life, your gifts, time, and commitment to God. You may give online at upctx.org/giving OR as you enter or exit the church sanctuary today. There are two offering boxes available. One is located at the Narthex and the other along the Commons hallway. A bowl for the Noisy Offering will also be placed at each location)

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless and multiply these gifts we give as tokens of our trust in you. Use them to bless the poor, feed the hungry, and comfort those who weep; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn No. 486

"When the Morning Stars Together"

Benediction

Choral Benediction

"Go Now In Peace"

Postlude

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Fred Bock

Disciples: All Who Trust in Jesus Christ
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Candice Richey Womack
Liturgist: Vicky Stauff
Safety Team Members: Rick Grayson, John Hill
Music Director: Dominick Stephenson
Organist: Cynthia Hibbetts
Family Ministries Coordinator: Heather Lind
Administrative Assistant: Pat De Mayo
Nursery Attendants: Martha Hill, J. R. Hill

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Candice Richey Womack
Session Clerk: Stephanie Hogue

Class of 2020

Kathy Derby, Virginia
Rutherford, George
Warren

Class of 2021

John Hill, John Wasson,
Jerald Hicks, Stephanie
Hogue

Class of 2022

Jessica Morgan, Ray
Lancaster, David
Williams, Bob Mudie

TRUSTEES

Jim Rutherford (2020)
Heath Jarvis (2021)
Polly Adams (2022)