

United Presbyterian Church

September 20th, 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 are 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

*Open unto me—light for my darkness.
Open unto me—courage for my fear.
Open unto me—hope for my despair.
Open unto me—peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me—joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me—strength for my weakness.
Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion.
Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me—love for my hates.
Open unto me—thy Self for my self.
Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.
-Howard Thurman*

Prelude

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Collin Curtis

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome Song

“Here in this Place”

Thanksgiving for Baptism

You, O God,
are the voice above the waters,
thundering wisdom,
flashing glory,
showering grace.
We praise you.

You sent Jesus
to give us living water---
the cup of blessing,
the cup of promise,
the cup of salvation.
We give you thanks.

By Your Spirit
you make this water
a pool of healing,
a river of new life,
a flood of grace.
We glorify you.

Amen.

Children’s Message

Hymn

No. 358 (Glory to God Hymnal)

“Steal Away”

Call to Confession

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us.
Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

(Period of silence for personal confession)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Anthem

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Jill Gallina

Prayers of People and Lord's Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage,^[a] he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.^[b] ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.^[c] ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'^[d] ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'^[e] ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."^[f]

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

Sermon

"Last Will Be First"

Rev. Candice Womack

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the

Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall com to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Apostle's Creed)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

God has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

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

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn

"Because He Lives"

Benediction

Choral Benediction

"Go Now In Peace"

Postlude

"All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name"

Jason Payne

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)