

United Presbyterian Church

November 22, 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

"Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel."

-A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.2

Prelude

"To God Be The Glory"

Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome Song

"Here in this Place"

Gathering Prayer

Holy One, enthroned in glory over all creation, you are a shepherd to the lost and the least. Teach us to see your face among the poor— feeding the hungry, giving

drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or in prison— so that we may share in your eternal realm prepared from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, who is coming indeed, to reign with justice, compassion, and love.

Hymn

Call to Confession

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin

(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

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

Psalms 95:1-7a (New Revised Standard Version)

95:1 O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

95:2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

95:3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

95:4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

95:5 The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

95:7a For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Ephesians 1:15-23 (New Revised Standard Version)

1:15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason

1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

1:17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

1:18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

1:20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

1:22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Sermon

Rev. Candice Womack

Affirmation of Faith (Confession of 1967, 9.54 – 9.55)

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ,
such as a heavenly city,
a father's house,
a new heaven and earth,
a marriage feast,
and an unending day
culminate in the image of the kingdom.
The kingdom represents the triumph of God
over all that resists God's will and disrupts God's creation.
Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,
stirring hope in us
and preparing the world
to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.
With an urgency born of this hope,
the church applies itself to present tasks
and strives for a better world.
It does not identify limited progress
with the kingdom of God on earth,
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.
In steadfast hope,
the church looks beyond all partial achievement
to the final triumph of God.

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

God has blessed us in Christ and in creation with all that we need to thrive. Yet Jesus' story reminds us there are so many in this world who do not have what they need. What we offer to God today helps the Church reach out to touch lives in need and share the love of God in so many ways.

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

Generous and Gracious God, you envision a world where the hungry are fed and strangers are welcomed. We bring you our gifts to become part of your vision. Bless them and bless us, so that all our gifts bear fruit in Christ's name, and honor him as Lord of our lives. Amen.

Hymn

Benediction

Choral Benediction

"Go Now In Peace"

Postlude

*(*The Liturgy today comes from the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Resources for Reign of Christ Sunday)*

Disciples: All Who Trust in Jesus Christ
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Candice Richey Womack
Liturgist: Bob Mudie
Safety Team Members: Jerald Hicks and 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)