

# *Sunday Morning Worship*

**Sunday, August 1, 2021**

**10:30am**

***Bold text** indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

*\* indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship** (responsive)

The Lord gives food in due season;

**God satisfies the desire of every living thing.**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

**Give us this bread always.**

You have been raised with Christ.

**Let us seek things that are above.**

### **\*Opening Prayer** (unison)

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the Word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Confession**

God has given us a sign showing that love is stronger than death. The sign of the cross points to our exodus from the bondage of sin. Let us repent, seek God's forgiveness, and enter into new life in Christ.

## **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Holy One, whose love and justice condemn us, whose mercy and kindness feed us, we confess our sins and pray for your forgiveness. What terrible suffering we have unleashed. We have used other persons without regard for their dignity; we have abused the earth without care for its beauty or concern for future life; we have sought to bargain with you to smooth our way to heaven. God, change us. Put the Spirit of Christ within us and cause us to grow into mature, faithful disciples of the one who came from you to save us from our sin. Free us from captivity to our selfishness, bind us to the whole body of Christ, and let us bear witness to the truth that your loves hold everything together in perfect unity. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The bread of life God sends is the offering of the only begotten Son. Whoever comes in Jesus Christ shall never be hungry; whoever believes in him shall never thirst. Believe the gospel; in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.*

## Prayer of Illumination (unison)

**Creator of unity, Body of peace, Spirit of community, bind us together around your Word and send us out to do your justice, show your mercy, and embody your redeeming love, glorifying you, Holy Trinity. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

### Philemon 1

*Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,*

*To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.*

*For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.*

*So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in*

*the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.*

*One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.*

*Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

**Sermon**

**“To Love and Forgive”**

**Pastor Christina**

*First in a series, “Philemon: Reconciliation in Christ”*

## **Morning Offering**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

**God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.**

## **Invitation to the Table**

### **Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy ...

... in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on 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 glory forever. Amen.**

## **Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup**

### **Prayer After Communion (unison)**

**Living Christ, as you open the scriptures to us you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Let us now go forth from this place, fed at your table and filled by the Spirit, to walk with you all the days of our lives, and to proclaim the glory of your resurrection to all the world. Amen.**

### **\*Benediction and Sending**

## *Prayers for at Home This Week*

### **Morning Household Prayer**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God almighty, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, your love endures forever. I am like the flower that blooms in its season, watered by the earth and morning dew. You send the sun and rain, morning, midday, and evening, giving light and life. Thank you for protection through the night; thank you for your presence in the dawn. Renew my strength this day and let me love you with all my heart and soul and might. Bear with me as I bear my cross for Christ, for I know that I will falter. You remember that I am only dust, but you have breathed your Spirit into me and my face is renewed. How can I show my gratitude? Grant that I may be one with the mind of Christ, loving my neighbor as myself and giving as freely of myself as you have given yourself to me. Guide me today to serve in deep peace wherever there is need for healing or hope. Use me to show others that you are the power who transforms the world and that you are the One who saves sinners. This day and this night, in this life and in the life to come, let me live in you to praise you, God who is three, God who is one. Amen.

### **Evening Household Prayer**

The day has run its course, evening lights are coming on, and you are still with me, unseen, God. You have been so quiet, like the sun or misty rain or the whisper of a light breeze across my skin. Yet you gave me life today to be in your presence, and you gave me faith enough to hope that I might be serving you. You, who makes the universe (or, if there are multiverses, so be it), you, who turned a Roman weapon of torture and terror into the ultimate sign of salvation, you have been a friend to me. Thank you. As I take moments to reflect on the day, write in my journal, or pray even now, I am sure there are ways you have cared for me of which I am insensitive or unaware. I am sure there are things I have done and others things I failed to do that made you justly angry with me. I am sorry; please forgive me. Do not let the darkness envelop me tonight. Embrace me with your light so that I can be at peace with you, restored. Prepare me for tomorrow, and for the day of resurrection, when all creation will rejoice in your glory, Holy Trinity. Amen.