

Liturgy for Summer 2020 Synod-Coordinated Worship Service
For Presbyteries and Churches to use beginning 6/25/20
Used by Ithaca First Presbyterian Church on 8/23/20

Prelude: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"
Joel Montgomery, Presbytery of the Western Reserve

Welcome: Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant

Call to Worship: Jamie Milton and Harper and Isaiah Lindahl Milton, Eastminster Presbytery
Adapted from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!
Let all that I am praise the Lord.
I will praise the Lord as long as I live.
I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.
God keeps every promise forever.
He gives justice to the oppressed
and food to the hungry.
The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.
The Lord loves the godly.
The Lord protects the foreigners among us.
God cares for the orphans and widows.
The Lord will reign forever.
Praise the Lord!

Let us worship God!

Opening Song: "God of Grace and God of Glory"
Brent Manley, Miami Valley Presbytery

Call to Confession: Rebecca Tollefson, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

It is a lot easier to praise the Lord in song, than it is to praise God with everything we say, and with everything we do. The truth is that we fall short of what God hopes for us. We sin. We need God's forgiveness.

Thanks be to God that we know that forgiveness is ours every time we ask. Let us ask for this forgiveness now. As we pray together, whenever you hear "Lord have mercy," please respond, "Christ have mercy."

Prayer of Confession: Rebecca Tollefson, Presbytery of Scioto Valley and Michael March, Presbytery of Mackinac

God of grace, we turn to you once more,
 acknowledging that our lives fall far from your glory.
 We do not do the things you want us to do,
 And we do the things that you do not want us to do.
 We are sinners in need of a Savior.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Today Lord Jesus, we confess the brokenness of our society.
 We are stricken with racial divides,
 stingy with our resources,
 and all too prone to violence or coercion.
 We do not exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

O God Holy Spirit, we confess that we do not turn ourselves over to you,
 that you would craft us more and more into Jesus' likeness.
 Instead of living lives of gratitude for the grace you show us,
 we turn inward and drift away from the paths of righteousness.
 We battle or ignore you, rather than surrendering to you.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

We repent from our sin,
 and we commit ourselves again to be slaves of your righteousness.
 In Jesus' name and by his grace. Amen.

Words of Grace: Michael March, Presbytery of Mackinac

The wages of sin is death,
 but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 Instead of condemning us, Jesus died for us,
 He rose for us, he reigns for us and he prays for us.
 In the name of Jesus Christ,
 our sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Praise: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Matt, Dana, Lydia, Natalie, and Evie Schramm, Presbytery of Lake Huron

Old Testament: Meta Cramer, Presbytery of Eastminster, Bill Bogdan, Presbytery of Cincinnati, Joanna Jew Dunn, Presbytery of Detroit, Mike March, Presbytery of Mackinac, and Rebecca Tollefson, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Psalm 141:1-5, 8-9 NRSV

*I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me;
 give ear to my voice when I call to you.
 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
 and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.
 Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord;
 keep watch over the door of my lips.
 Do not turn my heart to any evil,
 to busy myself with wicked deeds
 in company with those who work iniquity;
 do not let me eat of their delicacies.
 Let the righteous strike me;
 let the faithful correct me.
 Never let the oil of the wicked anoint my head,
 for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.*

*But my eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord;
 in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.
 Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me,
 and from the snares of evildoers.*

Children's Time: Kathryn Dhayer, Robert Fleming, and Faith, Presbytery of Western Reserve

New Testament Scripture: Franzetta Turner, Presbytery of Western Reserve, Rob Heidenreich, Presbytery of Cincinnati, Brittany Hesson, Presbytery of Muskingum Valley

Romans 6:15-23 CEB

Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sermon: "Ultimate Allegiance"

Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant

Song of Response: "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone"

FPC Grand Haven Gathering Band, Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Bryan Bosch, Marc Felt, Amy Geren, Tim Olson, Deb Stanley

Call to Giving: Joanna Jew Dunn, Presbytery of Detroit

Pastoral Prayer: Sam An, Presbytery of Detroit, Lanie Sipes, Presbytery of Maumee Valley

Benediction: Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant

Postlude: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Duo of Hope, Presbytery of Maumee Valley

Taide Prieto, Cello

Francisco Fernandez, Piano