

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Service for Worship at Home – July 26, 2020

Allow a moment to take a breath, and quiet your heart and mind before the Lord.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed. You who are love, always breathing new life, calling us to serve, sustaining us in the wilderness – come to us as the morning breaks. Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we worship with abandon, for we pray in the name of the Son you sent and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.

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Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, (c) 2014

Call to Worship*

Psalm 143:1, 5-6

Hear my prayer O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;

Answer us in your righteousness...

I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands.

We stretch out our hands to you; our soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

*Throughout the summer, as circumstances prevent us from gathering together, and in recognition of all that is going on in our nation and the world, each Sunday's Call to Worship will be from a psalm of lament; and each Sunday's Benediction will include a passage of hope and promise from that same psalm.

Hymn

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Confession

Romans 8:26

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought..."

Lord, you search our hearts and see the places where they are hardened and resistant to your will. In this time of much upheaval and pain, we have found that we frequently turn away from those in need, seeking our own security instead of the well-being of all. We have found that we are more separated from one another than we dared think. We have allowed self-interest to overwhelm your commandment to love our neighbor. We value possessions over and against people. We fail to see your Image born by every person.

Forgive us, we pray, and in your mercy redirect us so that we can walk in your ways.

(personal confession)

*Prayer of Confession adapted from Rev. Jill Duffield, Presbyterian Outlook,
 Order of Worship for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Assurance and Peace

Romans 8:31-34

“What then are we to say about these things?...Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Throughout this week, find ways to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Message

Children’s worship materials and a guided discussion are provided to households with children via email each week. If you have children in your household, but have not received the children’s worship materials, please contact the church office.

Scripture

Genesis 29:15-28

Sermon*The Subtle Grace of an Awkward History***Hymn***From the Depths of Woe (Psalm 130)***Offering**

Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how you can give them back to God in love and service to others.

We understand that these are uncertain and difficult times. But that is all the more reason that the work of the church continues. Please prayerfully continue to give your gifts to this ministry. You can take just a moment to give online through our website, or prepare a check to be mailed.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

**Prayer of Dedication, and portions of the Prayers of the people adapted from Rev. Jill Duffield, Presbyterian Outlook, Order of Worship for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost*

God of seeds and yeast, hidden treasure and fishing nets, we offer you these our gifts as a sign of our commitment to you and your ways in this world. Give us confident faith that believes you are at work right now bringing forth growth in and around us, growth that will in turn bring forth new life. Bless our offerings that they might be as leaven in this world, that all might be enabled to know the Bread of Life.

Lord, we come to this time of prayer with old wounds and new hopes. We come to you bringing new anxieties and old dreams, yearning for new creation and your vision. We look to you for guidance, for solace, for challenge and for stamina. The paths we travel in this time feel treacherous and daunting. We

want to know where you would have us go and how we can find Jesus' way no matter where you send us. We need to know your near presence.

God of beginnings and endings, as the summer heat deepens and the pandemic continues, we ask for your wisdom. Do not let us give in to our fears, but instead inspire us with your Spirit. Show us the new things you are right now doing so that we can participate in them. In all the upheaval and pain, the loss and uncertainty, help us to see the places where this chaos is opening space for a better way of life together. Grant us the courage to not only see the cracks in the structures of our society, but the faith to repair them so as to build better communities for all your children.

God of grace and mercy, we know that with your power mustard-sized seeds give way to majestic, nurturing trees and unseen leaven produces more than enough bread to feed the world. We pray for those suffering in body, mind or spirit. May our faith in you lead us to act in ways that make your relationship with us evident and our discipleship transformative for others.

Confident that the Spirit intercedes for us in our weakness, we ask you to guide those in leadership positions making difficult decisions that will impact our children and parents, our neighbors and friends, our schools and communities. Give humility and insight to those in power. Give voice and strength to those who speak truth to power. Give relief and support to those with no power.

Now hear us as we lift up those whose names are known to us. We continue to lift those who mourn: we pray for Judy and her family, mourning the death of her daughter Joyce; Cynthia, mourning the death of her uncle John; and we continue to lift up Elaine, and Peter and all who mourn the death of loved ones, family and friends alike. We pray for those with COVID-19 – for Paul's mother; Lord, we continue to pray for those with other health complications – for Jackie and Chuck, Betty's friends Maria, Charlene, and Theresa; Linda; Marsha and her mother and father. We pray for Elva, who reached out online for prayer for her son Rocky and his health issues – we pray for your healing, comfort, and peace and for those providing care – mental, physical, and emotional.

We continue to lift up Elaine, Dot, Marilyn, Miriam, Fran and all those at Madonna Manor, Chapel Hill, Highlands, Waterman Lake, Atria and other assisted living communities; and especially the Holiday Health and Rehab as many residents and staff there are bearing the weight of COVID-19 cases.

And hear us as each of us lifts up the prayers echoing in our hearts...

(Personal Prayers)

We know, Lord of all, that nothing can separate us from your love, that through you all things are possible, that your grace is sufficient and that your will for abundant life cannot be thwarted. We praise you for these gifts and pray that our lives will reflect their truth. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior who taught us to say when we pray,

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 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 the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go***Charge and Benediction**

Psalm 143:8

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning

for to you we put our trust.

Teach me the way I should go,

for to you we lift up our soul.

Beloved, may the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now, and forevermore. Amen.