

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – September 13, 2020

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires, known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.

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Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits –
 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and
mercy,
 who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Hymn

In Christ There is No East or West
 The Presbyterian Hymnal, #440

Confession

Romans 14:11-12

“For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ So then, each of us will be accountable to God.”

Lord Christ, you declare: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. You instruct us to forgive seventy-seven times, to remember God's grace toward us and extend it to one another. Despite your clear word to refrain from judging others, we pronounce others guilty and unworthy of our compassion. We quarrel over opinions and sow division when you call us to cultivate relationships and demonstrate our unity in Christ. Instead of responding to your grace with gratitude, we attempt to limit the love you command us to share.

Forgive our hard-heartedness. Expand our circles of concern. Enliven our communities with your boundary-breaking, reconciling Spirit.

**from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost,
September 13, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

(personal confession)

Assurance and Peace

Psalm 103:10-12

"The LORD does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us."

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Romans 14:1-12

Sermon*Proclaiming the Gospel through Disagreements***Hymn**

When a Poor One
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #407

Offering

Romans 14:7-8

"We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we died to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

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

**from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

Generous God, we worry that we cannot possibly give you what you deserve, that despite our desire to be faithful, we will fail and fall short. In your grace, you remind us that we need not, that we cannot, repay you for your mercy and goodness toward us, but that you accept and use what we offer in gratitude. Bless these gifts given as a symbol of our loyalty and love for you.

Almighty God, you alone are Lord of conscience. In life and death, we belong to you. Ultimately, we are accountable only to you. Trusting in your mercy, confident as your children, we come to you eager to be in your presence and receive your wisdom. When uncertainty swirls all around us, we rest in your peace. When the world feels threatening, we find solace in your compassion. When we are overwhelmed by the needs of the world, we remember your power to heal and bring wholeness in ways we could never imagine. When we fear we are alone, you promise never to abandon us.

When we yearn to unburden our hearts, you assure us that you hear our sighs too deep for words.

Merciful God, there is much on our minds this day: people still recovering from hurricanes and fires, communities reeling from racial injustice, families grieving the death of loved ones, students, parents and teachers attempting to navigate a school year like no other. In all these places and with all your people, bring relief and offer encouragement. And open out eyes to places of rejoicing – moment of healing, and new chapters of life unfolding. Help us to suffer with those who suffer, and rejoice with those who rejoice. We give thanks for the care we receive from friends and the kindness shown to us by strangers. May we be angry at the right things, may our hearts break at what breaks your heart, and may our foundation be your love. Make of us, we pray, reflections of your goodness and grace to those most in need of your mercy.

Loving God, we seek only to be faithful in this season, as in all seasons. Do not let us forget that you equip us to do your will. You surround us with others with whom to do the work you call us to do. You send your Spirit to give us the words, show us the way and empower us to keep going when we are tempted to turn away from you. We hold fast to your promises in order that others might come to experience your love through us.

This morning we lift up those mourning the loss of loved ones – Peter and his family, Judy and her family; we lift up those mourning the loss of jobs and vocations, or the loss of opportunities. Help us to remember the poor, lost, and the lonely. We lift up our leaders, those who hold power and those who would seek it. We pray for our school teachers, faculty and staff, and our students, all preparing for a difficult beginning to the school year. We pray for those in need of healing – Chuck, Betty’s friends Maria, Charlene, Theresa, and Maxine; Marsha’s mother and especially her father who fell this week, and for Gladys and all with Covid-19. We lift up those recovering from surgeries. And for those whose health and needs are perhaps unknown to us, but known fully to you.

We remember and lift up Elaine, Dot, Marilyn, Miriam, Fran and all those at Madonna Manor, Holiday Health and Rehab , Chapel Hill, Highlands, Atria, and especially this week Waterman Lake, with recent Covid-19 cases.

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

(personal prayers)

Gracious God, we are bold to pray for those closest to us and even for ourselves. As we wrestle with “what if?” and “what now?” we ask for a sure sense of your providence even when we cannot yet perceive it. Grant us the wisdom to know the next thing we must do in order to follow you. Give us the courage to do that next thing with our

whole heart and the faith to do it with joy. We make our prayer in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, 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 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 the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy

The Presbyterian Hymnal, #298

Charge and Benediction

Colossians 3:12-14

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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.