

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – October 4, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost/
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 20:1-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

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

Opening Prayer

**adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, (c) 2014 Westminster John Knox Press/
Psalm 19:1-6; Malachi 4:2*

Creator God, the heavens radiate your glory! May we emerge like sun from night's waiting with such rampant joy that we too radiate your glory throughout this day. In the name of the Son of righteousness who has risen with healing in his wings. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Confession

Psalm 19:7-10

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb."

Lord, as we come before you, we cannot help but hesitate. We remember your admonishment to go and be reconciled to our siblings before worshiping you. We recognize how we have fanned the flames of division rather than repaired the breach between us. We know we do not make evident our unity in you, our oneness made possible through your sacrifice. Too many of your children do not have a place at the table, do not have enough to eat, are relegated to beg for crumbs when you command us to offer radical and abundant hospitality. In your relentless mercy, forgive us, free us from fear and make us conduits for your reconciling love. Amen.

**adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 18^h Sunday after Pentecost,
October 4, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

(personal confession)

Assurance and Peace

Philippians 3:12

“Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture[Philippians 3:4b-14](#)**Sermon***Gains, Losses, and Heads-Up Play***Offering**

Philippians 3:7

“Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.”

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.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

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Gracious God, you create and call us, feed and sustain us, forgive and redeem us. We can never return to you that which you deserve. We pray to honor and glorify you with these gifts and with our entire lives. We present our offerings as a tangible way of showing our love for and loyalty to you. As tenants in your vineyard we rejoice in being called to work with you in sharing your abundant harvest with the entire world you so love.

O Lord our God, so much seems to be wrong in your vineyard. You gift us with space and work, fellow tenants and an abundant harvest, but we too often refuse to recognize the joy of your call and the beauty of your creation. We want more or other, better or bigger, that which belongs to you or our neighbors. We injure those you send to correct and restore us. We refuse to heed your life-giving law and even attempt to silence the Word made flesh. Help us, holy One, to treasure the gifts you give us, tend the resources you entrust to us and work to heal the hurt we so readily inflict.

O Lord our God, hear our cries of lament for the injustice so rampant in your world. You came to release the captives and set the oppressed free. You weep when your prophets are killed and your call to repent unheard. Grant us the courage to be repairers of the breach, those who restore our city streets. Bring justice. Bring peace. Make us embodiments of your perfect love that casts out fear.

O Lord our God, silence in us any voice but yours. As the chorus of divisive rhetoric rings in our ears and hate-filled speech gets amplified, send your Spirit to give your people the right words at the right time to proclaim good news for all people. Do not

let us remain silent when we are called to give voice to your will. Do not let us open our mouths when our words do not reflect the Word of grace and truth.

O Lord our God, open our eyes to see you present, at work, creating a future where all your children are valued, respected, fed and free to fulfill with joy your purposes for them. Give us a holy imagination that enables us to envision your vision and dream your dreams with such tenacity that we cannot help but enact your will.

We pray for those in need of healing – Chuck, Betty’s friends Maria, Charlene, Theresa, and Maxine; Marsha’s mother and father, and for Gladys. We pray for Roberta’s mother Maureen. 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 Waterman Lake.

We pray for our community, state, and national leaders. We pray for those who hold office and those who seek it. Help us remember the poor and the sick, the homeless and the excluded. May we renounce that which is evil and rejects your Image in every person; and help us, Lord, to hold fast to what is good, and all the more in times that are challenging and full of temptations to do otherwise..

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

(personal prayers)

O Lord our God, break our hearts in ways that move us to compassion, enliven our empathy and help us emulate the love of Christ. May those who feel dismissed know of your delight in them. May those who feel lonely know of your presence with them. May those who feel despair know your resurrection hope. May those who feel shattered by this time and current events know your healing power. May we, your body, the church, be made through the work of the Spirit the answer to the prayers of your people. We make our prayer in the name of our Savior, 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.

Charge and Benediction

Philippians 4:8-9

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen...and the God of peace will be with you.”

Beloved, go in the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit now, and forevermore. Amen.