

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – October 18, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost/
98th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

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

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through your Spirit at work, deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and truth..

**adapted from Book of Common Worship, (c) 1993 Westminster John Knox Press, and
The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, (c) 2013 Faith Alive Christian Resources*

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:1-5

The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness.

Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Opening Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
The Presbyterian Hymnal #466

Confession

Exodus 33:19

“And the LORD said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’;...”

Lord, like so many before us we often come to you with insincere motives, looking for an easy way out. We say we want your Kingdom, yet we pretend we have not already given our allegiance to lesser kingdoms. We allow this world to inscribe its image upon us, and this is likewise how we choose to view others – inscribed with the values and judgments of this world. We carry these idols with us, and this is the currency in which we trade. In so doing, we have discarded your Image at the heart of each of us – your Image in ourselves, and in our neighbor.

Help us to do the hard work of repentance, turning from our confused loyalties, that we may trade in the currency of your love, your grace, and your Kingdom.

(personal confession)

Assurance and Peace

Exodus 33:19

"...and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Matthew 22:15-22

Sermon

Image Is Everything

Hymn

We Give Thee but Thine Own
The Presbyterian Hymnal #428

Offering

Matthew 22:21

"Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God'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, honoring the Image of God in you and in others.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

**adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost, October 18, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

Lord of all, we render to you that which is yours. We recognize that all we have, that all the earth, every fiber of our being and every cell of creation is yours. We can do nothing apart from your presence and power working with us. In thanksgiving and joy, we give to you this offering. Bless it, we pray, and use it for that which will bring you glory and share your love.

Loving God, we feel at times as if we are being tested. One crisis passes and another one comes in its wake. The hurricanes churn over warming waters, the fires burn on the West coast, injustice follows injustice and this pandemic will not cease. How long, O Lord, how long? We cannot endure without a sure sense of your presence. We cannot rest without a glimpse of your power. While we

want to remain faithful, we cannot help but lag in zeal. Hear our cries for help, we pray.

Gracious God, knowing all too well that today's problems are enough for today, we entrust to your compassionate care all the burdens we can no longer carry, the worries we can no longer bear. Take from us the anxieties that threaten to overtake us, the grief of cumulative losses, the fear for our well-being and that of those we love, the shame of deeds we cannot undo and the doubts that prevent us from moving forward. We hand them over, right now, believing that our Lord intercedes for us and the Spirit translates our sighs too deep for words.

Merciful God, you never abandon us, your faithfulness to the covenant you make with your people is unwavering. You walk with us, go before us, envelop us with your goodness and grace. Help us to feel your close presence with every breath and each heartbeat. May our awareness of your nearness empower us to do justice, love kindness and keep walking with you so that others will come to know your love through our witness. Make of us a grateful, joy-filled people, a light to which others are drawn.

Glorious God, we are told only to ask and that in asking, we will receive. We ask now for whatever tugs on our hearts, weighs on our minds, calls from our souls. You know it before we name it. You desire what is best for your beloved world. You plan a hope-filled future for us. You refuse to give up on your good and beautiful creation. Help us to dream your dreams and envision your will until that day when Christ returns and all is well.

This morning we lift up the family and friends of Fran Vogelaar, mourning her death.

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, and all those at Madonna Manor, Holiday Health and Rehab, Chapel Hill, Highlands, Atria, and Waterman Lake.

We pray for our nation and our leaders – for all who hold office and all who would seek it. May we discern well and faithfully .

And we continue to lift up all who are harmed – whether in body, mind, or spirit - by this coronavirus pandemic. Be with those who mourn, those who are sick, those who are weary and heavy-laden, and those who are anxious.

And we celebrate instances of hope and healing, and of new life. We are grateful for Greg's new job.

In all things, in all our prayers, and in all our deeds, help us to remember and carry with us your Image in us, and indeed in all people.

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

(personal prayers)

We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to say boldly 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.

Closing Hymn

Lead On, O King Eternal
The Presbyterian Hymnal #448

Charge and Benediction

1 Thessalonians 1:3

"...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Know that the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is with you now, and forevermore. Amen.