

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – October 25, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost/
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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,
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Loving God, you not only welcome us, you receive us into yourself. Give us courage to be so open to you and your work in and among us that we can't help sharing your gospel in our lives, through Christ, who makes room for us all. Through your Spirit this morning, may we worship you in truth and in love. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-14

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;
In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Hymn

God of All My Days
soloist, Linda Tente

Confession *

Matthew 22:35-36

"...and one of them asked Jesus a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?'"

Lord, we come to you with questions that are not genuine, seeking only your affirmation of our behavior and opinions. We assume our own righteousness and quickly condemn others in your name, forgetting that our ways are not your ways, our judgment not your judgment. We do not take time to examine our hearts and seek your will. We jump to conclusions and neglect a life of prayerful discernment. Help us, gracious God, to humble ourselves before you and listen. Give us the courage to hear your corrective word and act upon it in ways that reveal our love for our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

**from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Jill Duffield*

(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

1 Thessalonians 2:4

"...but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts."

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon

Love is the Answer...What's the Question?

Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Minute for Mission

Woonsocket Teens and Tweens Food Pantry

Lydia Chopoorian
Calvin Church Deacons

Offering

1 Thessalonians 2:8

"...we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves..."

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 & Prayers of the People

**adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost, October 11th, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

Lord, you have blessed the work of our hands, given us resources and talents to share in your service, entrusted us with gifts to share for the building up of your kingdom. We rejoice that you enlist us to participating your providential care for all creation. We celebrate the work of your Spirit in us and in our world and through these gifts we give to you in faith and hope. Bless and use them in ways we may never see but can nonetheless trust.

Almighty God, as the days shorten and the leaves fall from the trees, we turn to you, our unfailing source of light and life. While we wonder what tomorrow will bring, we are certain of your love for us no matter what challenges we face. We trust your promise to never abandon us and your power to uphold us all our days. We marvel that you choose to be in relationship with us, forgiving us repeatedly and surrounding us with grace daily. Confident in your never-changing character of mercy and kindness, we turn to you now in prayer, laying bare our hopes, our fears and the longings of our hearts.

Alpha and Omega, there is no corner of creation that does not belong to you, that is not beloved by you. We neglect our neighbors and ignore our siblings who cry out for help, but like a nursing mother, you cannot forget your children. Bring to our minds those for whom you would have us pray...

As we remember the hurting and vulnerable you hold especially close, give us the courage to tend to them in ways that reflect your compassion and justice. Remind us yet again that when one part of the body hurts, we all suffer until that time we all rejoice together.

God of all that is seen and unseen, you give us your commandments that we might live in ways that reflect your will and make abundant life for everyone. All of the law and the prophets is summed up in loving you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. We ask, therefore, that our love of you and one another be tangible and transformative. Send your Spirit to enable us to practice mutual forgiveness, radical hospitality, generous mercy and relentless kindness. Help us to be gentle with one another, with the earth, with those desperate for relief and compassion.

We pray for our nation, our elected leaders – our President and Congress men and women. And in this time of elections, we pray for all seeking a place of public trust. May all who lead and seek to lead do so with a heart for justice, a love of goodness, from a place of humility.

Keep in our minds all who are sick, weary, heavy-laden, and worried in this time of pandemic and unrest. May we feel the unease of our unrighteousness and broken systems; and may that unease spur us on in the work of your Kingdom.

Be with those who grieve and mourn. Especially this morning, we pray for Betty and all who mourn the death of Betty's friend Charlene.

We pray for those in need of healing. We lift up to you Chuck, Betty's friend Maria, Theresa, and Maxine; Marsha's mother and father; Roberta's mother Maureen; and Gladys. And all recovering from surgeries or facing unknown prognoses.

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

(personal prayers)

Loving Lord, we pause to rest in your presence. Knowing that we are approved by you to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, we ask to be bold in our witness and humble in our service for the sake 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.

Hymn

The Calvin Church Virtual Choir

Be Thou My Vision
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #339**Charge and Benediction**

Matthew 22:37-39

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Go in the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude