

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – August 16, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
for the 111th Sunday after Pentecost/
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-28

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

Opening Prayer

**from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, (c) 2014 Westminster John Knox Press*

Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 57:1-2*

Be merciful to me, O god, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge;
In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by.
I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

*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

The Church's One Foundation
Presbyterian Hymnal #442

Confession

Matthew 15:10-11

"Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.'"

God of all people, we come before you this day keenly aware of the ways we fall short of your vision for us and for our life together. When we hear the words we speak, and the words we fail to speak out; when we see the actions we do, and the actions we fail to do, we cannot help but recognize our sin. You tell us how good and pleasant it is when we dwell together in unity, and yet we create division and cultivate disdain. You command us to care for each other, but we send away those crying out for help. You call us and put us together in community, but we want to pick and choose those with whom we associate. You say we are judged by how we treat those seen as least, but we do not speak out for those who are not heard.

Forgive us for thinking we are self-sufficient and independent, rather than utterly dependent upon you and in need of each other. Help us to see

ourselves and others as the beloved reflections of the divine we are and give us the grace to treat each other as such. Amen.

**adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 11th Sunday after Pentecost, August 16, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

Romans 11:1, 29

“I ask then, has God rejected his people? By no means!...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

[Genesis 45:1-15](#)

Sermon

From Rivalry to Reunion, and the Faithfulness of God

Hymn

Take My Life

Presbyterian Hymnal #391

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

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Receive these gifts, gracious God, as an outward sign of our recognition of your amazing grace. There is nothing we can offer you in return for your love to us, and yet we know that you take what we give in faith. Bless and use it for the building up of your kingdom on earth until Christ comes again.

Good and gracious God, so many of your people are hurting. There seems no end in sight to the uncertainty and pain of this season. Parents and caregivers are worried about children’s well-being as the school year approaches and the pandemic persists. The teachers and staff of our schools are being called upon to make impossible decisions, and we are asking even more of them, those who

already give so much in normal circumstances, to give even this year. Those living in group care facilities yearn to be able to have visitors again and the loneliness of those already isolated grows. The economic fallout from this virus gets deeper and wider as many scramble to find work and put food on the table. It feels, at times, as if we call out to you and you do not respond. Like the Canaanite woman in Matthew's gospel account, we shout for mercy, yet seem to receive no help. Yet, she kept calling out to you, kept following you, refused to be turned away until you healed her daughter.

We call out to you now, Lord Christ: Have mercy on us. Hear our cries. Help us.

We call out for mercy for those on the frontlines of fighting for justice. We call out for mercy for those on the frontlines of fighting this pandemic. We call out for mercy for those grieving the death of loved ones. We call out for mercy for the sick and those who tend them. We call out for mercy for the scared and those who comfort them. We call out for mercy for those without food or housing, medical care or community. We call out for mercy on behalf of those who do not have the strength to raise their own voices. We call out for mercy for ourselves, trusting you know our deepest needs even if we do not have the wisdom to name them.

Hear us, Lord. Heal us, Lord. Help us, Lord.

When we fear you have walked away from us in our desperation, send your Holy Spirit to remind us yet again that you do not reject your people, that the call and gifts of God are irrevocable. Embed in us the biblical stories that teach us that even that which we intend for evil, you, Lord God, use for good. Grant us the faith of those persistent faithful we see in Scripture so that we will persist in advocating for the vulnerable and hurting no matter how long it takes for our world to be made well.

So hear us now as we lift up those whose names are known to us. We pray for those who mourn the death of loved ones – family members, and friends. Especially we pray today for Judy, traveling tomorrow for the funeral of her daughter Joyce.

Lord, we continue to pray for those with health complications – We pray for Peter's mother Evelyn; for Jackie and Chuck; Betty's friends Maria, Charlene, and Theresa; Linda; Marsha and her mother and father; for Jennifer's sister-in-law Carrie. We pray for healing, we pray for your guidance and leading.

We continue to pray for those living in the aftermath of Hurricane and Tropical Storm Isaias. And for those in the in the city of Beirut. Comfort the grieving, heal the injured, restore communities and livelihoods.

We remember and lift up Elaine, Dot, Marilyn, Miriam, Fran and all those at Madonna Manor, Holiday Health and Rehab , Chapel Hill, Highlands, Waterman Lake, Atria and other assisted living communities.

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

(personal prayers)

Give us faith, Almighty God, to keep focused on our Savior, following the Way, loving you and our neighbors, until the One we worship comes again and come again he will. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to boldly 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

We Are One in Christ Jesus
Glory to God Hymnal #322

Charge and Benediction

Psalm 57:7-10

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast.

Awake, my soul!

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;

For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

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.