

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – September 27, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost/
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Opening Prayer

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

Gracious God, we thank you for being ever present with us. We know that we are never alone. Your mercies have been faithful and rich. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might do the work of your will. Lead us into worship of you, that the Good News of Jesus might change, remake, and renew us as your people. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 78:4, 7

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Opening Hymn

How Great Thou Art
The Presbyterian Hymnal #467

Confession

Matthew 21:28-31

Jesus said, "A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard to day.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of the father?"

Gracious God, you instruct us to look to the interest of others, to be of the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. We are to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but instead serve you with humility and patience. We know your will, we even say we will do it, and yet too often we fail to follow your commandments. We act out of self-interest. We regard others as less than ourselves. We neglect your teachings to care for the least of these. We refuse to follow you; we go our own way and then wonder why we are so lost.

Remind us of your mercy, Lord, of your steadfast love and the forgiveness that is already there if we but repent and turn to you. Hear our prayer, work within us and enable us to do your will.

**adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost,
September 27, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

Philippians 1:6

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture[Philippians 2:1-13](#)**Sermon***A Story Told, and Story to be Lived***Hymn**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service
The Presbyterian Hymnal #343

Offering

Philippians 2:4

"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

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

As a sign of our desire to be faithful, to hear and heed your teachings, we offer you these gifts, Lord of all. We recognize that all we have comes from you and that you hold nothing back from us. In joyful thanksgiving we give you these earthly resources, trusting that you will use them for your divine purposes. Bless this offering. May it to bear witness to our love for you and your love for the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

**adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 27, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

Loving God, we are tempted to give into constant quarreling with you, with one another, with leaders and friends, fellow believers and random strangers. Our world is awash in animosity and fear, anxiety and distrust. Even though we know we are to be in the world but not of it, we find it hard not to mirror the discord and anger all around us. We humbly come before you this Lord's day and ask you to intervene, to work within us so that we have the ability to turn away from those actions and attitudes that prevent us from fulfilling your purpose through us and turn toward the One who shapes us for your service.

As the world reels with upheaval, use us to bear witness to your peace. As the headlines reverberate with bad news, use us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. As our communities wrestle with wicked problems, use us to exercise holy imagination that helps the new thing you are doing emerge. As so many grow weary and worried, use us to bring relief and hope.

Merciful God, our prayer lists are long. We cannot possibly name all of the people, places and circumstances in need of your compassion and transformation. We trust that you know our hearts and hear our pleas even when they are left unspoken. Pour out your care on those devastated by fires and floods. Wrap in love your children who cry to you in lament for all they have lost and cannot imagine living without. Grant your unwavering strength to your prophets speaking the truth in love to many as yet unable to hear it. Give your peace that passes understanding to those overwhelmed with anxiety and afraid of what tomorrow might bring.

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.

And hear us as each of us lifts up the prayers echoing in our hearts... *(personal prayers)*

Confident that you know the needs and are already present and at work in every corner of creation, we humbly turn over to you those things we can no longer carry. Astonished that you enlist us to do your will on earth, we ask you to show us what we ought to take on in order to be faithful to your call. We make our prayer in gratitude for your grace and in the name of your Son, 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.

Closing Hymn

The Calvin Church Virtual Choir

Amazing Grace
The Presbyterian Hymnal #280

Charge and Benediction

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God, And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

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.