

*CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*

**A Service for Worship at Home – September 6, 2020**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings  
for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

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

**Opening Prayer**

adapted from Psalm 119:33-37

Teach us, O Lord, the way of your statutes, that we may observe it to the end. Give us understanding, that we may keep your law and observe it with our whole heart. Lead us in the path of your commandments, for we delight in it. Turn our heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. Turn our eyes from looking at vanities; that we may see life in your ways.

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 149:1-5

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, the LORD's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

**Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**

Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to the LORD with tambourine and lyre.

**For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.**

**Confession**

Romans 13:8

*"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."*

**Why, Lord, God, do we live as if our lives are our own and our will synonymous with your ways? Our actions defy your commandment to love you and love our neighbors. We forget that you entrust us with the power to forgive, the task of reconciliation, and the responsibility to care for creation and every creature within it. When we are strong, we assume we are self-sufficient. When we are weak, we are embarrassed to ask for help.**

**Forgive our pride and lack of compassion for ourselves and for others. Reveal to us yet again your merciful and gracious character and help us to reflect it so that our relationships demonstrate your loving kindness to the world.**

*\*adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost,  
September 6, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

*(silent confession)*

**Assurance and Peace**

Romans 13:14

*"Instead, put on the Lord 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**[Romans 13:8-14](#)**Sermon***Oh My, Look at the Time!***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**

*\*adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

There is nothing we can offer in exchange for the gift of salvation, the gift of life, the gift of each breath and every moment in your good creation, Lord God. You offer us grace when we cannot fathom such freely given love. We respond with praise, with worship, with offering a portion of what you have entrusted us. Knowing you can do abundantly more than we could ever hope or imagine, we give these gifts to you and await with hopeful eagerness the blessings you will bring to others through them.

Almighty God, we approach you with reverence and hope, aware that we often lack the words to express our deepest fears and our most heartfelt needs. We are confident that before a word is on our lips, you know it completely. We believe your promise of presence, the certainty of your providence and your power to work for good in ways we may not see, but can surely trust. Relying on your grace, we bring you the cares of the world, the concerns of our community, the worries that keep us up at night.

Lord, as we see images of destruction, of communities in flames and entire towns destroyed by winds and water, we pray for those impacted by natural disasters. Sustain the weary, strengthen the weak, empower your people to be the helpers to those desperate for relief. Do not let us shrink from loving our neighbors now and through the long months of recovery that are yet to come.

We remember, too, the many among us feeling crushed under the weight of this persistent pandemic. Comfort those who grieve, heal the sick, encourage the

caregivers, provide for your people unable to make ends meet. Make of your followers those who fish for people and mend the communal safety nets that keep so many from drowning when the storms of life churn.

Knowing that we are put in community to care for each other, that our fate is inextricably tied to that of others, we pray to be peacemakers and ambassadors of reconciliation, to work for ways of life together that bind up rather than tear down, to be those who let loose mercy and overflowing justice.

We lift up those mourning the loss of loved ones – Peter and his family, Judy and her family; we lift up those mourning the loss of jobs and vocations, or the loss of opportunities. Help us to remember the poor, the outcast, and those on the margins. We pray for those in need of healing – Chuck, Betty’s friends Maria, Charlene, Theresa, and Maxine; Linda; Marsha’s mother and father. And for those recovering from surgeries.

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.

*(personal prayers)*

Gracious God, you hear the cries of your people and find a way to set them free: free from oppression, free from exploitation, free from the hungers of the body and soul, free from anything that prevents the abundant life Christ came to give. As partakers of your grace, we boldly ask to be participants in your kingdom's coming until that time when every tribe and every nation is healed and whole, gathered together and praising our Savior and Lord, the very one 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**

Romans 15:13

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

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.