

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – September 20, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost/
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

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, (c) 2014 Westminster John Knox Press*

O God who knows our every need before we can even ask, you provide all our needs and even some of our wants. You bless all. As we worship, make us truly thankful and empower us to bless others from the gifts you have given us, for the glory of your name. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-5

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to the LORD, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in the LORD's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works the LORD has done.

Opening Hymn

The Steadfast Love of the Lord
Glory to God Hymnal #59

Confession

Exodus 16:3

"The Israelites said, '...for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'"

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts, and strengthen our spirits and bodies, so that we may follow after you, O God.

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

(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

Exodus 16:15

"When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'"

In Jesus Christ, the very Bread of Heaven given to us, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Philippians 1:21-30

Sermon

Hard Pressed but Hopeful

Hymn of Response

Christ Beside Me
Glory to God Hymnal #702

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.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

**adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 20, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

Generous God, receive these gifts as an outward sign of our inward gratitude. We cannot repay you for your goodness to us, but we know you accept that which is given in faith. Take these our gifts and offerings, and distribute them in ways that show forth your mercy and goodness. Multiply what we offer in ways that nourish others hungry to know they are you beloved people.

Lord, we find ourselves weary, wondering if we will dwell in this season of uncertainty and stress forever. Everything feels unsettled and upended. Tasks that used to be accomplished without much thought require planning and additional energy that we do not have to spare. Children attend school in their homes or in buildings with multiple protocols for distance and safety. Parents attempt to work even as they contend with limited or non-existent childcare, helping with online learning and the anxiety of tending to multiple and competing needs. Many among us now face not only unemployment but the end of unemployment benefits. Others struggle with illness or feel overwhelmed with grief. In our worries, we call out to you for help, knowing you hear the cries of your people and respond with compassion

Your generosity to us is evident even in our anxiety. You give us a community of faith that upholds us in our weakness, encourages us when our hope lags and makes your love tangible when we feel alone. When we struggle to see your providence, you sustain us with your Spirit. When we fear you have forgotten us, you seek us out and enlist us for your work, giving us purpose and meaning no matter our circumstances. When we are overwhelmed by the pain of the world, you reveal your glory in the beauty of creation. When we want to turn away from suffering, you send your Son, showing us your resurrection Word cannot be silenced.

Confident in your mercy and grace, we boldly pray for your people desperate for manna in the desert, relief in the wilderness, a respite from their burdens: We pray for those reeling from natural disasters; especially we ask you to provide for the victims of the wildfires raging in the West. We pray for those facing economic scarcity, those worried about meeting their basic needs. May those of us with two coats give one

away and those who have more than their daily bread, share with those who have none, in order that all may know your manna appears new every morning.

We continue to pray for our community, state, and national leaders. May their service be marked by seeking justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you. Help them to make wise, and courageously compassionate decisions for the common good. We pray especially in this time for our teachers, school administrators and staff, students and parents in this difficult time.

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 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.

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

(personal prayers)

We pray for the peacemakers and justice-seekers, the prophets and the policy-makers, the caregivers and the activists. Enlist us all, Almighty God, to work in your vineyard in ways that participate in your will and ways so that all may experience the abundant life your Son came to give. 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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #538

Charge and Benediction

Philippians 4:4-5

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone, The Lord is near.”

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.