

**CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Online Worship Service – November 8, 2020**

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

Amos 5:8-24  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

*\*adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion  
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Eternal God, you are our hope and our salvation, for in Jesus Christ you have conquered death. Baptized in him, we are raised to new life. Increase our faith, and keep us watchful, that we may welcome Christ with joy – that we may welcome in our hearts, welcome him in our words, welcome him in our actions, and welcome him in our love of neighbor. Amen.

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 70:4-5

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

**Let those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”**

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

**You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!**

**Hymn**

*Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers  
Glory to God Hymnal #362*

**Confession**

Amos 5:18-24

*“Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light..I hate, I despise your festivals...even though you offer me your burnt offerings...I will not accept them...I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”*

**Loving God, as we examine our life together, our impulses and actions, we see all too clearly that our choices do not reflect your commandments. We do the things of worship, we praise you with our lips, and we ask for your presence among us - yet we fail in the weightier matters, and we have not truly considered what the day of the LORD means for us and our ways.**

**You tell us to be ready to meet you at any moment, to stay awake to your presence and prepared to do your will. But we remain distracted or complacent, disillusioned or paralyzed. Help us to repent, Lord. Focus our attention on our Savior that we might see your vision for this world.**

*\*adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost,  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

*(silent confession)*

**Assurance and Peace**

Psalm 70:1

*"Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me!"*

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.****Scripture**

Matthew 25:1-13

**Sermon***Lights for Uncertain Times***Hymn***Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*  
Glory to God Hymnal #350**Offering**

Matthew 5:15-16

*"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before 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 and the Prayers of the People***\*adapted from Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost,  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Rev. Jill Duffield*

Almighty God, when our fear of tomorrow threatens to overwhelm us, help us to remember that we serve you and you are omnipotent, loving and abounding in steadfast kindness. As we offer you these gifts, we ask for the wisdom to fill our lamps with the oil that enables us to be the light of the world. May this offering enable others to know your near and good presence.

Lord, we are gathered to worship and pray even if we are in separate places. We are with you, united in Christ, and part of the communion of all the saints, past, present and future. In recognition of the vastness of creation and your never-ending creative power, we humbly and confidently speak our heartfelt hurts and share our deepest hopes.

We choose to serve you this day, knowing that serving you requires our all. Do not let us falter when discipleship gets hard and we are tempted to serve lesser, easier gods. Encourage us with the gift of community and the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us to not grow weary in doing good. To keep our lamps filled with the oil of justice and righteousness, of love and joy, peace and patience, kindness and generosity, faithfulness and self-control. And may we never tire of doing good.

When we survey the state of our world, the suffering and the evil, the conflict and the hardship, we cannot help but cry out to you for help. While we know nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus our Lord, we often rip the fabric of our life together apart, sowing division instead of seeking to be ministers of reconciliation. We

know that you are with all those who hurt and we ask for the courage to stand on the side of the oppressed, to seek out those left half-dead in the ditch and to feed your sheep. Increase our compassion for people and indeed for all creation.

In times these times of uncertainty – a global pandemic, a contentious election, and all that each new day brings – comfort us with the truth that Jesus is Lord. But may that comfort not be a reason for complacency; may it instead be an encouragement and a source of strength to participate in the rolling waters of justice and the flowing streams of righteousness.

As we continue to try to navigate the many storms of this season, we are mindful that we do not do so alone. We are grateful for the ways you provide for us, granting us glimpses of peace that passes understanding, giving us rest that restores and pursuing us when we are lost and afraid. We thank you for the gift of one another, those with whom we agree and those whose views we cannot comprehend, each of us – sisters and brothers, neighbors, strangers, and enemies alike – those we are called to love; each of us made in your image.

And so we pray for one another. Help us be your agents in comforting those who grieve; encouraging those who are weary; bringing healing to those who are sick. We lift up Mariette, recovering from surgery; we continue to pray for Chuck, and for Betty's friends Maria, Theresa, Maxine, and John; for Marsha's mother and especially her father who had a fall this week, and Roberta's mother, and Gladys.

We pray for our nation. May we as the church never lose sight of Whom we are called to serve. Lord help us – help the Church – be bold in affirming what is good and right and just, no matter politics or party; and help us to be bold in calling out what is unrighteous and unjust, no matter politics or party. Bring humility to those of us rejoicing the outcomes; bring assurance to those of us lamenting the outcomes. And we pray for those re-elected and those newly elected. That all may serve the common good.

Lord, when we are unsure what to do, where to go or how we will serve you well, remind us to refill the oil for our lamps, the oil of gladness and healing, the oil that consecrates and anoints, the oil that lights paths for us and for others, the oil that allows us to see Christ when he comes to meet us. May our desire to serve you provide the wisdom we need for the living of these days. We make our prayer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the 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.

**Hymn**

The Calvin Church Virtual Choir

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

The Presbyterian Hymnal #171

**Charge and Benediction**

Galatians 6:9-10

*“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up.  
So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all...”*

Beloved of God, let us go into the world preparing for, and participating in the kingdom of God, knowing that we do so in the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.