

## *We Worship Together*

### **Call to Worship**

One: Holy God, you have brought us to this time, not to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life,

**All: But to heal and inspire us, to gently redirect us, and to fill our hearts with persistent hope**

One: We look forward in expectation to the day when we see all of our neighbors as you do

**All: And love all of our neighbors with your love.**

One: We acknowledge that in this place, as we gather together, we are surrounded by your presence.

**All: Come, let us worship God together!**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#464

### **Prayer of Confession** (taken from Barn Geese Worship)

Call to Confession: There is a blessing in being understood as the beloved of God. Because when you are well-loved, you do not always have to be right. You can name your sins without shame because Christ loves us and because we share with one another this indelible love. Please join me as we lift up our Prayer of Confession.

**All: Holy God, you have made humankind to serve this world; but we twist this world to serve our purposes. We have acted carelessly to your creation. We have injured our friends and betrayed our families. We have failed to extract ourselves from cycles of evil that pervert everything you have made good. Jesus, we believe your Good News can mend what humankind fractures.**

**But we also recognize that sinfulness infects even good intentions.**

**As leaders in your church, we have striven for perfection, shouldered your burden, championed the cause of the suffering. We have done so out of love for you.**

**Still, we have harmed those we love. And we have tried to die to your work as though our sacrifice could save the world. We confess that we equate strength with flawlessness. We confess the exhaustion in our spirits and the bitterness clenched in our hearts. We can picture the people we struggle to forgive. At times we even resent you. You never ask us to match your goodness. But even when we give everything, we still wonder if we should have done more.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved of God, through the love of Christ, God has demolished the record of your sin.

You are forgiven.

*I will say it again:*

You are forgiven.

Jesus calls you to release the pain in your heart and the guilt on your shoulders. And Jesus calls you to share this gift of reconciliation.

Thank you, Jesus, for making us your own. Through your love we will bless those who harm us even as we break their control over us. We will release those who have stolen from us even as we seek relentless justice. We will resist simple peacekeeping to make the peace that heals. And all of God's people said...**AMEN!**

**Scripture Reading:**

Luke 12: 13-21

NRSV Updated Version

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

**Sermon:**

MWS Joni Sancken

**Song/ Hymn of Response**

Be Thou My Vision

#339

**Commissioning of MWS Frank Rupnik**

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind. The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship.

Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

Frank has been called to serve for the next 10 months as a Navy Reserve Chaplain serving the Marines in New Orleans.

Frank, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ.

God has called you to this particular service for this time. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**I will, with God's help.**

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

**I do.**

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**I will, with God's help.**

Do we, the members of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, confirm the call of God to our brother Frank as Navy Reserve Chaplain?

**We do.**

Will we support and encourage them in this ministry?

**We will.**

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.

We thank you for leading Frank to this time and place. Establish him in your truth, and guide him by your Holy Spirit, that in your service he may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory now and forever.

We also ask your blessing and guidance for the Troy Presbyterian Church as they work to support Frank, and yet continue their mission and ministry in his absence. Amen

Frank, you are commissioned to service as a Navy Reserve Chaplain. Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

May the God of peace, make you holy in every way,  
And keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body,  
Free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### **Communion**

(Special Music for contemplation and reflection as folks take communion at their seats)

### **Prayer After Communion**

### **Benediction and Adjournment**