

Order of Worship
May 9, 2023
Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Call to Worship

One: As we turn our hearts and minds to worship, please join me in the call to worship.

One: Lord Jesus Christ, help us to recognize you in each face we meet.

All: May we hear your voice when a neighbor says, "I am present. I am hungry. I am thirsty."

One: Open our eyes and our minds to the needs of your Beloved Community in our midst.

All: May we hear your voice when a neighbor says, "I am a stranger. I am vulnerable. I am sick. I am in prison."

One: Give us minds to know you, hearts to love you and strength to serve you.

All: May all we do be out of love and in service to your children everywhere.

Opening Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Call to Confession

One: God's redeeming and reconciling work in Jesus Christ and the mission of redemption to which he has called his church are at the heart of the gospel. We all need God's grace. Let us now admit our sins before God.

Prayer of Confession

One: God of compassion and mercy, we are your wounded and wounding children.

All: We bring our wounded selves, our divided society, and our broken world, seeking your healing and transforming grace. It is easy for us to point the finger at others, yet we know that we all need your forgiveness.

One: So we lift into your presence today, not only the victims of conflicts, but also those we have called enemies.

All: Break down the walls of hatred, distrust and bitterness. Open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love.

One: Enable us to build a world where all can belong; as we seek for the new future which you offer us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A moment for confession and silent reflection.

Promise of Forgiveness

One: In Jesus Christ, God was redeeming the world to Godself. Our God became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of redemption and reconciliation. God is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue this work in our world today. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and all of God's people said...Amen!

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-7

Sermon: We Look Forward in Hope

Hymn of Response: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts, **we lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, **it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer continues...

One: in praise and thanksgiving, we seek to join our voices with the great cloud of witnesses, including those whose voices have been silenced for far too long, ignored by oppression and crying out for justice. With these voices, we offer this prayer:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer continues...

One: Even though we don't always understand it, we continue to tell the story, proclaiming the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer continues...

...we pray using the words that Jesus taught us to pray, **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People (Music playing while folks take communion)

Prayer After Communion

One: God of abundance, with this feast, this holy meal, you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. We go forth from this place nourished and strengthened, ready to proclaim your abundant love with stubborn hope. Amen.

Installation of Officers