

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY
CALLED MEETING
11 NOVEMBER 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Moderator: In the presence of God, who saw our unformed bodies.

Response: We come together, understanding we are wonderfully made.

Moderator: In the presence of Jesus, who felt our frailty and infirmities.

Response: We come together, empathizing with those who suffer.

Moderator: In the presence of the Spirit, who intercedes with care and compassion too deep for words.

Response: We come together, sharing in the burdens of our brothers and sisters.

Moderator: Come, let us worship in spirit and in truth, reflecting our shared experiences and mutual support within the body of Christ.

Response: Let us understand as Christ understood and empathized with us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Moderator: God of all wisdom, we confess that we often live in ignorance.

Response: We confess that we often choose not to understand those who are different from us.

Moderator: We confess that we often lack the desire to understand viewpoints that challenge our own.

Response: We confess that we often fail to seek understanding before passing judgment.

Moderator: Forgive us, O God, for our lack of understanding.

Response: Grant us the wisdom to listen, the openness to learn, and the humility to seek forgiveness.

Moderator: In your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer.

Together: Amen and amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Moderator: Hear the good news. God knows our hearts and understands our weaknesses. Even when we fail to empathize, God's mercy is unending. In Christ, we are forgiven and given the grace to grow. Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift. So let us live as a forgiven people, striving to understand and love as Christ did. Amen and amen.

Scripture

Exodus 3: 1-4

Luke 16: 19-31

Sermon

"What Do You See?"

MWS Rob Smith, HR

Communion Liturgy

MWS Ken Locke presiding

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

(Adapted from the Book of Common Worship, 1993; Prayer C, pgs.130-132.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our 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.

Holy, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name.

In love you commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, creating the vast universe and calling it good.

You loved us into living, molding us in your image to live with you and one another in love. You gave us the breath of life and freedom to choose your way. You promised yourself in covenant with Abraham and Sarah, told us your purpose in commandments through Moses, and called for justice in the cry of the prophets.

Through long generations you have been faithful and kind to all your children.

Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty. Your ways are true and just.

Therefore, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

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!

We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son. Freely living among us, sharing our joy and sorrow, he told your story, healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live.

We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world, and yet he is still be-friending us sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup, giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

As you raised our Lord from death, calling us with him from death to life, we joyfully give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise.

Great indeed is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we proclaim the death of our risen Lord until he comes again.

And now, according to his commandment;

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

WE SHARE THE FEAST

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

Gracious and loving God, we praise you for once again nourishing us with the body and blood of Christ our Lord. We praise you for lifting us up to enjoy, for just a moment, the divine peace and serene joy of your heavenly realm.

Now, send us out in the power of the Spirit to live for others, as Christ lived for us, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations. Empower us, where experience cannot afford, to place ourselves in the suffering of others, sharing with them and so bearing witness to the suffering of Christ and his healing grace.

By your Spirit draw us together into one body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain his glad and faithful people until we feast with him in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Let all God's people say,

Alleluia, Amen!