Worship for the November 14, 2026 Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Hymns from The Presbyterian Hymnal (blue)

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*Please rise in body or spirit
***Congregation reads bold type**

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (responsive) Psalm 146:1-2
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord, we will praise you as long as we live!

***Hymn of Praise** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* # 259 v. 1, 4

***Call to Confession** Psalm 146:5, 8
Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God, who lifts up those who are bowed down. Let us humble ourselves and confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession** (unison)
Lord, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)
The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, and peace given to you through God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Live in the word of the Lord and be made new! **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Sung Prayer for Illumination Tune: Old Hundredth
Come Holy Spirit, meet us here, Help us to feel your comfort near.
Open our minds, teach us Christ's ways, So we may bear your fruit today. Amen.

Scripture Reading Psalm 146

Scripture Reading Romans 12:9-21

Message "In Times Like These" Ruling Elder Alice McCollum

Special Music *Blessed Assurance* Elder Obie Harris, accompanied by Benjamin Harris

***Affirmation of Faith** **The Confession of Belhar (portions of section 4)**
We believe
• that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
• that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
• that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
• that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
• that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
• that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
• that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;

Choral Anthem "This is the Air I Breathe" Deacon Marcus Johnson, Soloist and the College Hill Choir

Prayers of the People
Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord of mercy, **lift us out of the depths!**

God of prophets and of disciples, you have heard the plea of your people throughout the ages. Hear us now, as we present to you those things that burden us.
Lord of mercy, **lift us out of the depths!**

Hear us as we pray for those who are sick. Give them hope, that they may feel your presence, and the presence of others, comfort and support. Grant them patience, that they may live in your time and in your will. We believe in the power of your healing! Do your will, God! Do your will!
Lord of mercy, **lift us out of the depths!**

Hear us as we pray for those who live in constant conflict. Bring your wisdom to their lives. Enable your people to learn from you, whose anger lasts only a moment, but whose favor lasts a lifetime. Allow our anger to last only a moment, that we might put our efforts toward reconciliation and peace.
Lord of mercy, **lift us out of the depths!**

Hear us when we pray for those who feel imprisoned by temptation and sin. Lead us to examine ourselves and our lives to see how and why we fall into temptation, and give us empathy to understand others and their prisons. Grant us the strength to do good and to not be weary, and to always be watchful for opportunities to do your will.
Lord of mercy, **lift us out of the depths!**

Holy God, we pray for your church. Give us courage to be true disciples. The world outside these walls can be challenging, and yet others watch us and we witness as we act. Give us wisdom to better reflect your actions of love and mercy, so that our families, our communities, and our countries might understand what your kingdom is all about. We pray in the name of your perfect witness in the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Words of Institution
God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us open our hearts.
We open them to our God.
Let us give thanks to the Holy One, Our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and Holy God, you created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. We praise you for you are our maker! We praise you for taking pleasure in your people and lifting up the humble. In all ages, you have been faithful to us, even when we were not faithful to you. You have sent prophets and witnesses to call us back to you when we ourselves grew weary, stumbled, or fell from your way. We recall some of their names before you in gratitude: Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, Elizabeth and Mary, Simeon and Anna, Peter and James and John, Mary and Martha, Stephen, Paul, and Timothy, Tabitha and Cornelius.

And we also recall those witnesses whose names are not recorded: shepherds and magi, a boy with loaves and fishes, a little girl raised from the dead, a man born blind, a woman whose back was bent, the prodigal son, the Samaritan woman, the rich young ruler, the widow with one coin, unnamed women, the Ethiopian eunuch, and countless more.

Out of your great love, you sent One who was more than witness: Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Savior. Born of Mary he lived among us, sharing our joys and our sorrows, even suffering the pains of death. By your power at work in Christ, he was raised from the dead and is now seated at your right hand in the heavenly places, above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

Gracious God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to set our hope on Christ and live for the praise of his glory. Pour out your Spirit upon us, as you have poured out your Spirit on

generations past, so that our love for all the saints might increase, and also our love for the world you love. May the bread we break and the cup we bless be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ, until that day, until that great and promised day, when we will feast with all the saints in your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, one God forever and ever.
Amen.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer Following Communion
Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life. We give you thanks. Help us who have shared this meal today, to be Christ's faithful disciples so that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom. Send us into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* # 563 v. 1

Benediction
God feed you; Christ protect you; Spirit live in you and wash over you with the love of God. Amen.