

Unsettled but Unafraid: A Liturgy for Worshipping at Home

Week of September 6, 2020

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Although we are not able to gather in-person for worship, we are able to gather in spirit. This liturgy is designed to be used alongside the worship video, although it can be used on its own. Use it individually or as a family. If you are using it in a family setting, consider giving each person one part to lead. If using individually, try to carve out 10-minutes to quietly read, reflect, and pray through. No matter how you worship, God will show up. Liturgy this week was compiled by Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin.



Opening Psalm - Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.
Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.
Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.
Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.
Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.
Fulfill your promise to your servant,
so that you may be feared.
Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.
How I long for your precepts!
In your righteousness preserve my life.

Confession¹ *(included in video)*

As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin and brokenness in personal and common life. Trusting in God's abundant grace, we approach God with confidence confessing together the sinful state of the world and our lives. Although today we may pray this prayer alone or only with our families, we pray this prayer together with our church in Spirit.

¹ This week's confession comes from *Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids 2019-2020, Year A*, published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the PC(USA), p. 161.

Forgiving God,
You teach us to seek reconciliation
with those who have wronged us;
for, above all else,
we are to love one another.
But we let resentment smolder
until anger flares,
destroying any chance of peace.
We blame others and refuse to repent.
Grant us grace, we pray.
Make space in our wounded hearts
for the possibility of forgiveness,
and teach us to turn toward others in love
as you have turned toward us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear and read the Good News. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in our baptisms. Believe this good news and rejoice for we are forgiven in Jesus Christ! Amen.

Scripture - Romans 13:8-14 *(included in video)*

Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself*. Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

Communion *(included in video)*

I. Invitation to the Table

Wherever it is you find yourself this day whether that be at your coffee table, around your breakfast table, or even using your lap as a table, you are in sacred space. Here at these tables scattered throughout this time and space God invites us to come to the

Lord's table. So friends, let us come to the table of our Lord and Savior to taste and to see God's love. Come.

II. Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God,
we give you thanks this day for your love.
Out of chaos,
you made the world with love and with care.
You created humanity in your image,
and you charged us to love you
and to love one another.

When your people cried out in Egypt,
you called and equipped Moses to lead them
to a land of milk and honey.

When your people forgot your commandments,
your charge to love you and to love one another,
you sent prophets to call us back to your way.

When the world was in need of a savior,
it was you that sent a savior.
By an unmarried woman,
you sent grace, truth, and light into this world
in the form of Jesus Christ.

Jesus taught us a way of love.
He ate with sinners.
He bound up the broken hearted.
He healed lepers.
He flipped over tables.
He died on a cross and was raised from the dead
so that we will know God's love.

God we do give you thanks.
We give you thanks for this bread and this cup
that embodies your love.
May this meal remind us of your love
and connect us with you
and with believers in every time and place.

In the name of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

III. Words of Institution

On the night of his arrest

Jesus was at a table with his disciples. He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take, drink.

This is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table,

we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

And Come again he will. Amen.

The meal has been blessed. Friends, take and eat.

This is Christ's body broken for you and the blood of Christ shed for you. Amen.

IV. Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

God of abundance,

with this bread of life and cup of salvation

you have united us with Christ,

making us one with all your people.

This meal reminds us that we belong to you,

but in our belonging to you,

we are intimately connected to one another,

so God hear these prayers of your people:

For your church in every place,

that we may worship and serve you faithfully

with both our hearts and our hands.

For leaders and people in every land,

that they may know your will and do your will

in loving neighbor, friend, and foe.

For justice throughout the world,

that there may be peace and plenty for all.

For the earth you have made,

that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory,

and that we may pause to soak it in.

For all those who hunger and thirst,

that they may be filled with food, water, and a safe place to be.

For those who are ill and those that are close to death,
that they may know your love, your care,
and that they are not alone.

God we give you these prayers for your people
trusting in your Holy Spirit that is at work in the world
as we say together the prayer Jesus Christ taught us:

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.*

Ponder Prayerfully

“Love is hard, and it asks us to do hard things. It asks us to live in community with people who are not just like us; it asks us to share our lives with those with whom we do not always agree; it requires us to forgive one another’s wrongs. Love asks us to do hard things, but it also envelopes us in light, showing us what it means to be fully known and fully loved.”

-Joann H. Lee