

## Unsettled but Unafraid: A Liturgy for Worshipping at Home

Week of June 7, 2020 (Trinity Sunday)

St. Simons Presbyterian Church



Although we are not able to gather in-person for worship, we are able to gather in spirit. This week's 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.

**This week as a church we celebrate communion.** Before you begin worship, take a moment to gather something that serve bread (whether a loaf of bread, a roll, cookie, breakfast pastry, pop-tart) as well as something that can serve as the cup (milk, juice, water, wine). And together let us remember that no matter how you worship, God always shows up.

Liturgy this week was compiled by Rev. Alan Dyer with a reflection by Rev. Laurie Bentley.

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### **Opening Psalm - Psalm 8**

Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens.  
Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.  
When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?  
You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

you put everything under their feet:  
all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,  
the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.  
Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

### **Confession of Sin** *(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.

Holy, triune God, we confess that we have not lived for Your glory. You came to love and save the world, but in our brokenness we find ourselves condemning others in Your name. You send us out to tell good news, but we hide from our calling in fear. Forgive us, God of grace. Give us new life in your Spirit so that we may serve You faithfully and live as Your beloved children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, hear and read the Good News. Jesus Christ came into the world for us. Jesus ate with sinners for us. Jesus died on a cross for us. And he rose again for the forgiveness of sin-our sin. Rejoice! We are a forgiven people! Amen.

### **Scripture - 2 Corinthians 13:11-13** *(included in video)*

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. How are you feeling? What doubts are arising in you during this ongoing season of the pandemic and in a broken, tumultuous world?
2. If you were asked to explain the significance of the Trinity for Christian life, what would you say?
3. How do we address the gap between the admonishment in 2 Corinthians to agree with one another and live in peace and our deeply divided culture and even church?
4. Where do you experience the Triune God in your everyday life?

### **Communion** *(included in video)*

- I. Invitation to the Table
- II. Prayer of Thanksgiving

### 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

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.

#### A Prayer for the Week:

God of delight,  
your Wisdom sings your Word  
at the crossroads where humanity and divinity meet.  
Invite us into your joyful being  
where you know and are known  
in each beginning,  
in all sustenance,  
in every redemption,  
that we may manifest your unity  
in the diverse ministries you entrust to us,  
truly reflecting your triune majesty  
in the faith that acts,  
in the hope that does not disappoint,  
and in the love that endures. Amen.

## Tide Lines

A Reflection by Rev. Laurie Bentley, SSPC Member and Retired Lutheran Pastor

*Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence....*

*Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.*

*You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here....*

*And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.*

[from: Max Ehrmann, Desiderata, 1927]

*And God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. -Genesis 1:31*

Most of my life I have lived with noise and haste. As a student, wife, mother, pastor, and in many other roles, I was busy. I loved all these callings, but often felt stressed, stretched thin, overscheduled, and tired. I yearned for more sabbath in my life - quiet time that belonged just to me, time to commune with myself - and God.

Then the quiet came - with a vengeance. Just months after I retired to spend more time with my husband, he died. I drew inward for a time to deal with my grief and Jim's estate. About the time I was ready to reconnect with people, the coronavirus forced me to shelter at home again. Here, uninvited and unwelcome, was that free time I had always wanted.

I had gotten into the habit of taking long walks - around historic buildings, over bike paths, tracing the tide line on the beach. I prayed my memories, anger, tears, gratitude, questions into the great emptiness I felt. Seeking whatever peace there might be in silence. Wondering why I was having such a hard time pulling myself together, struggling to be gentle with myself.

Over time, silence revealed itself through my senses. The sun dying in splendor each evening, but never failing to reappear the next day. The Milky Way visible at night across heavens, land and sea. Great oaks twisted and broken by lifetimes of storms, yet living still, their huge, welcoming arms outstretched. The colors of flowers, the scent of marsh mud, the feel of limp siphonophores under my toes, the sight of shorebirds pecking in the sand or scooping up dinner from the ocean. The sound of wind and songbirds and night croakers. The deer and unexpected blue heron that crossed my path. The smell and taste of salt in the air.... finally ... peace!

But now, as always happens, the tide in me has begun to turn. It is a cycle I have known all my life. Times of intense introspection are followed by active reengagement in the "outside" world. And our world is in pain, screaming to be heard and helped. Both my children live where passionate but peaceful demonstrations have been subverted into violence. The horrifying deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and so many others haunt me. Increasingly, my prayers are centered on the anguish of others. I know that God is calling me (and all of us) to respond, but how is not yet clear.

I trust that the right door will open at the right time. Meanwhile, I will continue my long walks, thankful for the abiding, unconditional love of God, who sees our every struggle, feels every blow, and tastes every human tear.