

Unsettled but Unafraid: A Liturgy for Worshipping at Home
Week of June 28, 2020
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. No matter how you worship, God will show up. The liturgy and reflection this week was compiled by Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin. The accompanying artwork at right is titled "Jesus Welcomes All" and is part of a Christian mural in the nation of Sudan.



Opening Psalm - Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18

I will sing of the Lord's loyal love forever.
I will proclaim your faithfulness
with my own mouth
from one generation to the next.
That's why I say,
"Your loyal love is rightly built—forever!
You establish your faithfulness in heaven."
You said, "I made a covenant with my chosen one;
I promised my servant David:
'I will establish your offspring forever;
I will build up your throne from one generation to the next.'"
The people who know the celebratory shout are truly happy!
They walk in the light of your presence, Lord!
They rejoice in your name all day long
and are uplifted by your righteousness
because you are the splendor of their strength.
By your favor you make us strong
because our shield is the Lord's own;
our king belongs to the holy one of Israel!

Scripture - Matthew 10:40-42 (included in video)

“Those who receive you are also receiving me, and those who receive me are receiving the one who sent me. Those who receive a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. Those who receive a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded.”

Questions for Reflection

1. What did it mean for the disciples to receive Jesus and the one who sent him? What does it mean for you to receive Jesus?
2. What makes someone a prophet? What makes someone righteous?
3. What could a prophet’s reward be compared to a righteous person’s reward?
4. As disciples named and called by God, how can we share a “cold cup of water”?
5. What are some ways you welcome your neighbor?

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer *(included in video)*

After each intercession, you are invited to pause for a moment and offer your own thanksgiving and prayer before proceeding to the next intercession.

God of Love,

You are here with us even though we might not feel your presence. Teach us to look for you. Use our hands to do your work in the world. Remind us of the ways you welcome us into your realm as we pray for the world.

We give you thanks for the creation you made...

We give you thanks for friendships...

We give you thanks for the ways you teach us...

We give you thanks for how you welcome us...

We pray for our nations leaders...

We pray for those without access to necessities...

We pray for those who are sick and need healing...

We pray for those who are grieving...

We pray for those who are afraid...

We pray for those who are alone...

We give you these prayers trusting in your presence in the world as we say together the prayer Jesus Christ taught us:

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

Sending and Benediction¹

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A Cool Cup of Welcome

A Reflection by Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

When I think of welcome, the first thing that comes to mind is the church and the way we do our best to welcome our neighbors. Thinking back to before the pandemic, I saw welcome when members of our church volunteered at Manna House on the first Monday of every month. Church members and friends planned, prepared, served, and cleaned up after a meal for our neighbors. There were many times when we cried while cutting onions. We chopped vegetables to go in salads, although neighbors rarely asked for seconds on salad. We made the tea perfectly sweet just the way Manna House guests liked it. We did our best to make our neighbors feel welcomed and like they belonged. Manna House is a place where God's people are welcomed and it is beautiful.

Welcome doesn't just happen at a place though. Welcome can also happen in your heart. Over the past seven weeks, the SSPC COVID-19 Community Relief Fund has been receiving applications from our neighbors who have been impacted by this pandemic. When community members request assistance from the Community Relief Fund, there's a question that asks "How can we be praying for you?" In today's minute for mission you saw just a few of those prayer requests. The team that receives these requests is constantly surprised by the way we have felt invited — *welcomed* even — into someone's heart by being asked to pray for them. Praying these prayers from the community feels an awful lot like receiving that cup of cold water.

God welcomes us by sharing a cup of cold water with us all the time if only we take the time to look and to feel that grace washing over our heads. In the same way we are welcomed into God's midst, God calls us too to make room and welcome our neighbors as well. Amen.

¹ This benediction comes from the Book of Common Worship, 1993, p. 82.