

Unsettled but Unafraid: A Liturgy for Worshipping at Home

Week of August 2, 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 with a reflection written by Harlan Hambright.

Centering Prayer

God of grace,
draw us into a place of worship.
Still the stirring world around us.
Quiet the to-do lists running through our heads.
Quell the anxieties weighing on our hearts.
Carry us into your canopy.
Amen.

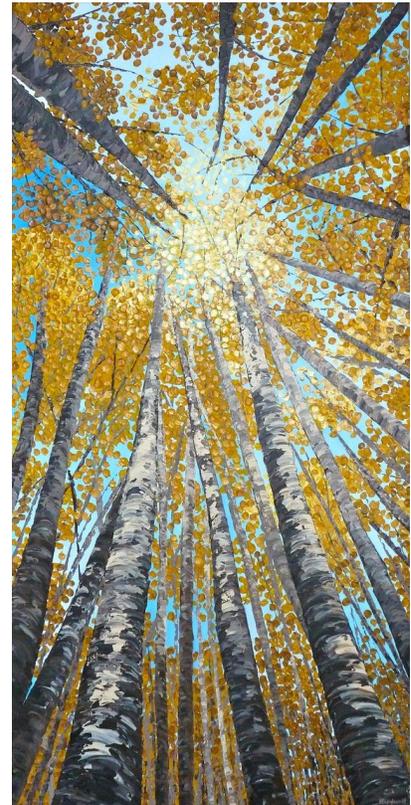
Prayer of Confession

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.

God of abundance, in your hands meager offerings become bread to feed a multitude. Your mercy over flows to fill deserted landscapes with hope and grace. In you there is always more than enough. But we only see scarcity. We see too few resources to share with our neighbors. We see too little energy to respond to those in need. We turn from those who suffer rather than offering compassion and care. Transform us, we pray Open our hands to share freely and generously and stretch our hearts to new expressions of love.

(pause for silent confession)

In Jesus Christ's name we pray. 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 - Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21 (*included in video*)

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Questions for Reflection

1. What characteristics of God do you find in this psalm? Have you ever experienced any of those characteristics yourself?
2. What kind of food do you think the Psalmist is referring to in verse 15?
3. The psalmist writes that God is close to those who call out to God and that God shows favor to those who honor God. How do you call out to God in your own life? What does honoring God look like for you?

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.

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:

Living God,

By the power of your Spirit,
help us to hear your holy word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe;
and believing, we may follow
in faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)

Shaping Our Faith

A Reflection by Harlan Hambright

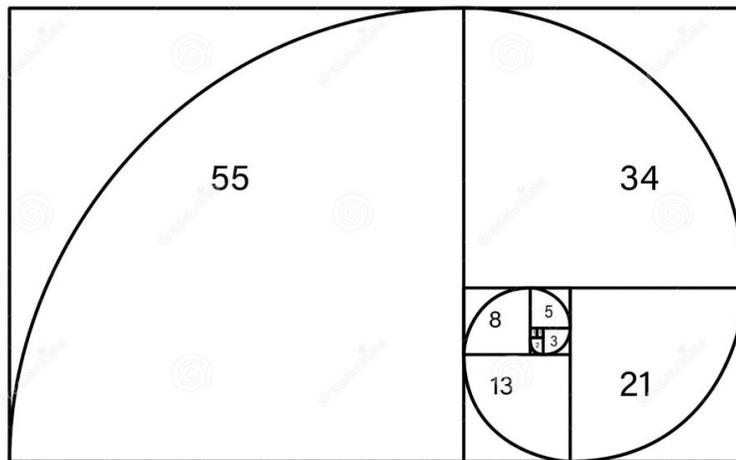
There is a mathematical logic at the heart of the design of nature. It was “discovered” in 1202 by the Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci. Learning about the Fibonacci sequence and its role in the growth and development of nearly everything in nature brings to light the magic of our universe in almost understandable terms and suggests a scientific basis for beauty. If you aren't familiar with the Fibonacci sequence, here's an attempt at an explanation. The Fibonacci Sequence is the series of numbers:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ...

The next number is found by adding up the two numbers before it:

- the 2 is found by adding the two numbers before it ($1+1$),
- the 3 is found by adding the two numbers before it ($1+2$),
- the 5 is ($2+3$),
- and so on!

If you assemble squares with these widths you get a nice spiral which is found in many plants (vegetables, flowers, seeds) and shells (nautilus shell is a great example):



When done with inspiration, thought and care, things that man designs can be magical as well. Some of my most moving experiences have been as a result of visiting certain inspirational spaces, most notably Ronchamp Chapel in Ronchamp, France designed after World War II by the French architect, Le Corbusier.



*Photo credit – Harlan Hambright
Ronchamp Chapel*

Winston Churchill said, “We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.” This is something to consider as we patiently await the completion of the sanctuary renovation. It’s doubtful whether the final product will be as moving as a St. Peter’s or a Notre Dame, but with its improved sight lines and expanded chancel area, it will certainly provide a beautiful backdrop for worship services and other celebrations and events. It will “shape us” and our goings on in a much-improved manner, and will hopefully, in fact, be inspirational. Just getting back in will be moving on a number of levels, design being but one.