

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

We Gather in God's Name...

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

{for silent prayer before starting the worship playlist or conference call}

Great and loving God, your will for us in Jesus is the peace which the world cannot give; your abiding gift is the Advocate he promised. Calm all troubled hearts, dispel every fear. Keep us steadfast in love and faithful to your word, that we may always be your dwelling place. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.¹
AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 66, *NRSV*; choose a leader)

One: Bless our God, O peoples,
All: let the sound of his praise be heard.
One: Come and hear, all you who fear God,
All: and I will tell what he has done for me.
One: I cried aloud to him,
All: and he was enthusiastically praised with my tongue.
One: If I had cherished sinfulness in my heart,
All: the Lord would not have listened.
One: But truly God has listened;
All: he has given heed to the words of my prayer.
All: Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #263

CALL TO CONFESSION (BASED ON ACTS 17; LED BY ONE)

While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent. He has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged by our Lord Jesus, who was righteous, and assured us through raising this same Jesus from the dead. Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (about 30 seconds)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Father, we come before you for the sins that we have committed — the things that are outside of your intentions of us. We come before you, also, for the sins of omission — the things we have failed to do that have been outside of your will. Help us to turn away from this path and into repentance, and forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (BASED ON 1 PETER 3; LED BY ONE)

Be at peace and know that you are forgiven! For Christ suffered for the sins of all — the Righteous One for the unrighteous. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. The one who suffered that we might be forgiven now resides in heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. AMEN.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE (You may say: "The peace of Christ be with you." and respond: "And also with you.")

...to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Acts 7:22-31 <https://bit.ly/3dFr6Xl>
{Pick someone in your household to read this scripture passage.}

EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 3:13-22 <https://bit.ly/2LrPe3y>
{Pick another person, if possible, to read this passage.}

GOSPEL READING John 14:15-21 <https://bit.ly/2yJ20Z7>

SERMON Rev. Andy Smothers

HYMN "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" #146

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

{I invite you to pray as a household offering your various praises, thanksgivings, and requests to God aloud. Close with the Lord's Prayer.}
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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH Heidelberg Catechism (Questions 116-118)

One: Why do Christians need to pray?

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Join the online worship playlist from Sunday at 11am at <https://www.conradfirstpres.org/covid-19-worship>. Alternatively, you can listen to the Gospel lesson and sermon at 11:30 am on Sunday by calling (978) 990-5110 and using access code 749966# when prompted. Make sure to include the # key on your phone. Note that there may be a long distance charge depending on your carrier and plan.

All: Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking God for them.

One: What is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that he listens to?

All: First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in his Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for. Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence. Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord. That is what God promised us in his Word.

One: What did God command us to pray for?

All: Everything we need, spiritually and physically, as embraced in the prayer Christ our Lord himself taught us.

...to Give Thanks to God...

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

Father of compassion and God of all comfort, thank you first for sending you Son to model life and faith to us. Thank you for his faithfulness and willingness to die for us, the unrighteousness, that we might be forgiven and offered eternal life. Finally, thank you his interceding for us to you, our Father, as we pray. We offer our offerings of time, talent, and finances in thanksgiving for all that you have done or us. In the name of the Righteous One, our Lord Jesus the messiah. AMEN.

...and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #376

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #438

¹ Book of Common Worship, 331.