

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

GREETING: (Printed in bulletin.) You are the “Leader.”

CALL TO WORSHIP : (Printed in bulletin) *Invite the congregation to stand and join you in reading the call to worship with one of the following:*

1. On this [beautiful*] day that God has made, let us begin our worship together by reading responsively the Call to Worship. Please stand if you are able. [*adjective of your choice]
2. In gratitude and joy for all of God’s blessings, let us worship God using the Call to Worship printed in the bulletin. Please stand if you are able.
3. Together let us begin our worship of God by reading responsively the Call to Worship in your bulletin. Please stand if you are able.

OPENING HYMN

OPENING PRAYER (Printed in bulletin): *Invite the congregation to join you by saying “Let us pray,” or by saying: “Please join me in the opening prayer printed in your bulletin. Let us pray...”*

End of Opening Prayer: “Please be seated”

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Read one that fits with the Prayer of Confession printed in the bulletin.)*

The God revealed to us in the pages of scripture is a welcoming and inclusive God who directs us to love one another. We seek to remove all the barriers that keep us from that love. Let us now confess all that separates us from each other and from God. Let us pray together the Prayer of Confession...

Jesus said, Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Let us rest in God’s mercy as we pray the Prayer of Confession together...

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: that Christ died for us that we might live. Because we have faith in Christ, we dare to approach God with the truth of our lives. Let us pray together the Prayer of Confession....

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(Call to Confession, cont.)

When the righteous call for help, God hears and delivers them from their troubles. God is near to the brokenhearted and rescues those whose spirit is crushed.

In the sure knowledge of God's redeeming love, let us pray together the Prayer of Confession...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Printed in bulletin)

SILENCE (1 full minute for silent individual confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Read one of the following*)

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life. In Christ we are freed to begin again and again, and to live in joy. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

When we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, God gives us grace to grow and courage to continue the journey. Hear the good news: those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has passed away and behold, the new has come. Thanks be to God!

Friends, God hears our prayers. God loves and values us, forgives what is past, and calls us to new discipleship. Thank be to God!

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Through Jesus, we are freed to love one another, to forgive one another and to be forgiven. We are given new life. With full and free hearts, let us answer God's gift with our praise, devotion and service.

God knows our soul's longings and with the tenderest love, pours out mercy, compassion and forgiveness on us. Through Christ we are given new and abundant life. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE/GLORIA (sung)

PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(Choose one that fits with your scripture reading and with the theme(s) of the service—indicated by the prayers, for example.)*

God, source of all light
by your Word, you give light to the soul.
Pour out on us
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
that our hearts and minds may be opened
to know your truth and your way.
Amen.

Shine within our hearts, loving God, the pure light
of your divine knowledge,
and open the eyes of our minds and hearts
that we may understand and embrace the message of the Scripture.
Amen.

Gracious God,
we do not live by bread alone.
Let the heavenly food of the scripture
we are about to hear
nourish us today in the ways of eternal life,
through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.
Amen

God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
In the midst of the multitude of words in our daily lives,
speak your eternal Word to us,
that we may respond to your gracious promises
with faithfulness, service and love.
Amen.

Living God,
help us so to hear your Word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe;
and believing,
we may follow your way in all faithfulness,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do.
Amen.

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SCRIPTURE READING

- Introduce the reading by naming the Book, Chapter and verses.
- You may also provide 1-2 brief sentences of “context” (e.g. explain who’s speaking or what’s just happened, if the text is not self-explanatory.)
- **“Listen now to a word from God”**:
- At end of the reading, read from Bulletin:

“Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church” [Thanks be to God]

After the reading of the Scripture, you may be seated and relax! You’re finished!