Mission Presbytery Third Sunday Worship Template

***Welcome & Gathering***

***Call to Worship***

Psalm 34:3 and Psalm 95:1

One: Come! God is beckoning us home.

**All: Our nomadic journey is over at last.**

One: Come! God is steering us home.

**All: Home, to a safe and flourishing place.**

One: Come! God is shepherding us home.

**All: Home, where we are neither stranger, nor a hired hand, but fully received as children of God.**

***Hymn My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (*(BPH 172)**

**\* CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: Let’s come before the presence of God, not to justify our actions and defend our entrenched positions, but to ask for forgiveness, to express remorse for the pain and suffering such actions have caused to us, and to others…Let’s ask God to replace our anger with love, our fears with peace, our despair with hope,... Come, come with me…Amen

***Prayer of Confession***

**ALL: Gracious and loving God, we have become experts on justifying our actions, actions that have no resemblance of YOUR love for humanity or care for your creation.**

**We defend our misguided conception of what the family of God on earth should be, without prayerfully and intentionally seeking to know YOUR will. Forgive us Lord.**

**We have confused our desires with YOUR intention for the world, our agendas with YOUR true mission, our sinful and broken world with the new earth and the new heaven YOUR offer us. Forgive us Lord. Absolve us, merciful and loving God.**

**Help us to be less concerned with our own self-interest and more Christ-like.**

**Replace in us all that is broken, damaged and fruitless. Give us a new nature, one that praises YOU and follows YOU without hesitation. We ask this not on our own accord, but in the name and merit of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.**

***Assurance of Forgiveness.***

**Hear the good news!**

**Who is in a position to condemn?**

**Only Christ, and Christ died for us,**

**Christ rose for us,**

**Christ reigns in power for us,**

**Christ prays for us.**

**Anyone who is in Christ**

**Is a new creation. The old has gone; a new life has begun.**

**Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.**

***Romans 8:34, I Corinthians 5:17***

***Word***

***Prayer for Illumination:***

*Guide us, O God, by YOUR Word and Spirit, that in YOUR light we may see light,*

*In YOUR truth find freedom,*

*And in YOUR will discover YOUR peace,*

*Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen*

***Scripture***

***Hebrew Scripture:*** *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

***Greek Scripture:*** *John 12:20-33*

***Sermon “****Even the Greeks Came to See Jesus”* *Ezequiel Herrera,*

***Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn:* I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (BPH 525)**

***Blessing and Charge***

**Charge**

* Let us go out from this place to where The Good Lord would take us... to lift up those who have fallen,
* To bring into community and fellowship those who have been excluded, rejected and ostracized.
* To be instruments through which God’s love, mercy and compassion can touch and transform the lives of others…

**Benediction**

* May the Love of God engulfyou,
* May the grace of Jesus Christ overwhelmyou, and
* May the presence of the Holy Spirit abide in you today and always. Amen.

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Resources used:

\* The Worship Source Book. The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. 2004.

\* The Blue Presbyterian Hymnal.