Mission Presbytery Third Sunday Worship

January 17, 2021

***Gathering Prayer***

Holy God, by your Word and Spirit,

come and transform your church

to be a living sign of your love for the world —

where the poor are filled with good things,

the dividing walls are broken down,

and the dead are raised to new life;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***Call to Worship***

Jesus says: Blessed are the poor in spirit, *See Matt. 5:3–12*  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.   
**And blessed is the church  
that serves with the love of God**

**to eradicate systemic poverty.**

Jesus says: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst

for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
**And blessed is the church  
that trusts in the grace of Christ  
to build congregational vitality.**

Jesus says: Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
**And blessed is the church  
that seeks by the power of the Spirit  
to dismantle structural racism.**

Blessed are you, O Holy, Triune God,

**and blessed is your holy realm forever.**

***Hymn*** Glory to God- #769 “For Everyone Born”

***Prayer of Confession***

Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered**

**from your way of truth and life.**

**You call us to share all that we have** *Systemic Poverty* **and work together for the common good,**

**but we hoard up treasures for ourselves**

**and deny others their daily bread.**

**You call us to set the captives free** *Structural Racism*

**and seek justice for the oppressed,**

**but we live in fear of our neighbors**

**and hide ourselves from our own kin.**

**You call us to walk in newness of life** *Congregational Vitality*

**and to be witnesses to the resurrection,**

**but we dwell in the valley of dry bones**

**and keep silent about your saving love.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.  
Set us free from sin, death and fear  
so that we may serve you with gladness;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

***Assurance of Forgiveness***

Hear the good news:

God’s love has been poured into our hearts

through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

***Scripture*** Matthew 19:16-30 and Matthew 25:34-40

***Prayer for Illumination***

Speak to us, O God, with the voice of your Holy Spirit,

that we may know the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Scripture*** Acts 2:42-47

***Sermon*** “God’s Beloved Community”

***Affirmation of Faith*** *A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpts)*

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:** *Systemic Poverty*

**preaching good news to the poor**

**and release to the captives.**

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
**In sovereign love God created the world good** *Structural Racism*

**and makes everyone equally in God’s image**

**to live as one community.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith** *Congregational Vitality*

**and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

With believers in every time and place,

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death**

**can separate us from the love of God  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

***Offering***

Jesus says: The realm of heaven has come near. *Matt. 10:7–8*

Freely you have received; therefore, freely give.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

***Anthem*** Jesus, Be with Us (Attached)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

We give you thanks and praise, O Lord:  
You have created us in your own image.  
You have claimed us as your beloved people.

You have called us to be a blessing for others.

Use the gifts of your good creation

and the works of our hands  
to lift up the oppressed,  
break down dividing walls,

and build up your church;  
all in the name and for the sake

of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***Prayer of Intercession***

Jesus says: Ask, and it will be given you; *Matt. 7:7*

search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Trusting in Christ’s grace, let us offer our prayers for the church and the world, neighbors and loved ones, saying,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

(*A time of silence may follow each intercession.)*

We ask your provision for all people. *Systemic Poverty*

Teach us compassion and generosity.

Put an end to economic exploitation.

Fill this world with your abundant life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We search for your beloved community. *Structural Racism*

Break down systems of oppression.

Dismantle patterns of privilege.

Establish justice and equality for all.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We knock at the door of your house. *Congregational Vitality*

Gather us in as disciples of your way.

Nourish us in faith and faithfulness.

Send us out to share good news.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*(Other intercessions may be offered;)*

then the presider prays:

Living God, we ask, we search, we knock —

answer our prayers with the power of your Spirit,

who transforms our lives to do your will;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn*** Glory to God- # 761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

***Blessing and Charge***

The God who was and is and is to come *Matt. 1:23; 28:20*

is with us in Christ Jesus.  
The blessing of the triune God  
be with you all. **Alleluia!**

Jesus says: Remember, I am with you always,

to the end of the age. **Thanks be to God.**