

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship / Breath Prayer

GATHERING

Prelude

Presentation of Gifts

Responsive Call to Worship

We bow with the rolling rocks.

God is our strength and our salvation.

We sing with the roaring rivers.

God is our justice and our joy.

We will never stop telling God's story.

God is the hope of our ancestors.

With all that we have and all that we are, we say:

God is so good!

Opening Prayer

Spirit of mercy,

**we come to your fountain of forgiveness
to begin again.**

You offer a fresh drink, a new life.

**Though we are often critical of others
and of ourselves,**

help us to accept that we are accepted.

**Meet us here in ways that we can understand,
that we may be filled with the life
only you can offer. Amen.**

Opening Hymn No. 664 – *Morning Has Broken

**1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!**

Children's Song – *Where Children Belong*

**This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
this is where children belong.**

Children's Moments – Presentation of Bibles to 3rd Graders

You do not read these words on your own.

You come to God's Word in the context of a community.

Congregation:

**We hope that as you read the Bible,
you will bring not only your faith
but also your questions and your doubts
to University Presbyterian Church
as a loving, supporting, listening,
and teaching community.**

As you read the Word in the family of God,
you also read it as part of your earthly family.

Families:

**We promise to read these words with you,
to listen to your questions,
to share our ideas,
and be honest about our doubts.**

CONFESSING

Call to and Prayer of Confession

**God our Judge,
we admit we have double standards.
We seek forgiveness for ourselves,
but fail to forgive others.
We seek relief for ourselves,
but fail to seek relief for others.
We seek leniency for ourselves,
but fail to show that mercy to others.
Forgive us, mighty God,
and help us to forgive,
showing others the same grace and mercy
that you have generously shown to us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Response No. 447 – *We Are Forgiven*

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

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

LEARNING

Anthem – *African Call to Peace* – Patrick M. Liebergen

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson – *Matthew 18:21-35*

Sermon

RESPONDING

Hymn of Response No. 725 – *O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
be now and always near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw still nearer and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
now give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

Affirmation of Faith – from the *Book of Common Worship

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Offering

Doxology No. 606 – *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use.
May these tokens of our gratitude be of service
in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry,
clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive.
Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry
in a hurting world. Amen.

SENDING

Sending Hymn No. 16 – *O That I Had a Thousand Voices

1 O that I had a thousand voices
to praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
would then proclaim in grateful songs
to all, wherever I might be,
what great things God has done for me!

2 Let every power in me implanted,
arise, keep silence now no more;
put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore!
O soul and body, join to raise
with heartfelt joy our Maker's praise!

3 You forest leaves so green and tender
that dance for joy in summer air;
you meadow grasses, bright and slender;
you flowers so fragrant and so fair:
you live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make God's glory known!

4 All creatures that have breath and motion,
that throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
come, share with me my heart's devotion;
help me to sing God's praises high!
My utmost powers can never quite
declare the wonders of God's might!

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

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