

# Sunday Worship

January 30, 2022

## THE APPROACH TO GOD CALL TO WORSHIP

God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection. From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails. So come, let us praise God together. Let us bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Let us proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

## GREETING

The Lord be with you, sisters, and brothers.

## OPENING PRAYER & CONFESSION

Loving God, your steadfast love reaches beyond the heavens. Yet, we openly admit that our own love too often falls short because we are impatient; quick-tempered, indifferent, jealous, envious, boastful, arrogant, dismissive, and irritable. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us of our lack of love. Create within us holy places of kindness, grace, humility, goodness, and long-suffering. Pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love. In the loving name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 3:16-17

Friends, the good news is this: Love is from God, and we are loved by God. God sent Christ into the world to atone for our sins, and in him we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

## GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, it is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another:  
"The peace of Christ be with you all."  
"And, also with you."

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Divine Spirit, surround us with the wisdom of your Word so that we might dance in your love and be messengers of your truth in this world. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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## SERMON

"Will Our Ministry Have Love?"

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever

lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Belhar Confession, Point 2, Section 4

We believe that the unity of God's people must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:

that we love one another.

that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another.

that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind – have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope.

that we together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ.

that we together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity.

that we together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another.

that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness, pray together, serve God in this world together, and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity. Amen.

## THE RESPONSE TO GOD

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, our heavenly Father, give us a vision of the world as your love would make it: a world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor; a world where needs and privileges are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever. Amen.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God may your great love be so graced into our hearts that we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, to the honor and praise of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.