

Celebration in Worship
Annual Meeting
February 4, 2018

We believe the words of Jesus: "I will never turn away anyone who comes to me." John 6:37

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

The first movement of worship in the Reformed Tradition is always one of remembering. In our tradition, praise is remembering. The Psalms of praise recount the mighty acts of God. That is why the call to worship is most often an adaptation of one of those Psalms. Remembering puts us in right relationship to God. It sparks thanksgiving, confession, a willingness to listen and respond.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Compassionate Savior, at whose touch people are healed and by whose word lives are transformed, show yourself to us now; touch our lives, speak to us. We do not seek these gifts for ourselves alone, but for the sake of the gospel. May your message be proclaimed among all people, drawing us all into the community you intend, where God reigns and love prevails. Amen.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Responsive)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Visitors, friends, members, welcome to worship! We are glad you are here. Please feel free to participate in ways that you feel led, and comfortable if you would just like to observe. We welcome your presence and invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)*

Jane Holmes

Leader: Worship God, who is from everlasting to everlasting!
The God of creation does not faint or grow weary.

People: How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How expansive is God's understanding of us!

Leader: The whole universe is subject to God's power.
Creation continues as the universe expands.

People: God rules all time and space, yet cares about us.
God is pleased with all who reflect steadfast love.

Leader: Sing to God with great Thanksgiving.
Praise God with the best you have to offer.

People: We lift up our eyes to see God's wonders.
We open our ears to receive God's message.

***HYMN #794**

O Savior, in This Quiet Place

Glory to God Hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Leader)*

Come away from your pretensions to examine your relationship with God. Break away from your illusions of independence to realize your responsibility in the church. Claim your unity in Christ with all God's children. Then realize how much you need to confess brokenness and seek healing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Who are we to claim equity with you, ruler of all worlds? Yet we try to order you around when it is we who should be taking orders. At times, we act as if we can get along without you. In our church, we often pretend we don't need other congregations. We hoard the gospel as if it were our possession, and thus we do not follow its mandates. We bend your law to our own whims and then excuse our disobedience. Forgive us, God. We are not worthy to carry the name of Christ. Restore us to yourself, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Proclamation is a natural movement out of confession and into the wholeness God intends for us. Proclamation uses the interpretation of the Church's sacred texts as a way to help us get in touch with what we can do to come in closer harmony to that which we discern as God's will for us and for humanity. In our tradition we do not take the Bible literally but claim its value as a witness to the directionality of God's movement in human history. Thus it becomes a foundation for understanding who we are and what we should be doing to be in harmony with the Divine.

ASSURANCE *(Leader)*

God calls us each by name. Every community of faith is known to God, whose understanding is unlimited. The one who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent and to empower those who have grown weary. Your strength is being renewed in these moments. You will mount up with wings like eagles. You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint. Praise God!

PASSING THE PEACE *(Responsive)*

As an extension of God's hospitality, let us greet one another with the sign of God's peace.

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:29-39

SERMON

Ministry Requires Prayer: Finding Your Deserted Place

Lorne Bostwick

The preacher is a fallible human being just like members of the congregation. She or he has, however, been trained in the tradition and has been set aside to study and interpret the texts in ways consistent with the tradition's understanding of God. The sermon is not meant to be the only way to understand a text but as an informed proclamation to be used by the community of faith to discern what God is calling us to do and be in our lives together.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

We the people of God hear God calling and we respond. Our prayers and offerings as well as affirmations of faith are the result of our hearing. In the worship service we speak our words of response, but God's blessing empowers us to live our prayers, our offerings, our affirmations in the places we live and work and play.

***HYMN #537**

When at This Table

Glory to God Hymnal

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table. We come to this Table because we are invited and not because we have any worthiness of our own that gives us a right to come. So join the community of faith as we join our Lord in this celebration of life.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE CALL TO PRAYER *(Responsive)*

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Unison)*

Gracious God, you have gathered us together that we might encourage one another to prepare our hearts to receive your grace. With the company of all the saints who sit at this Table and proclaim the mysteries of faith, we give our lives in prayer and service, following in the footsteps of Jesus. Here at this Table we have received your Spirit, your love incarnate in Jesus Christ. You have fed us and let us drink together united in our salvation. We give you thanks and praise your name. Amen.

AN INVITATION TO OFFERING *(Leader)*

We have an obligation to proclaim the gospel. We are entrusted with a commission. So we give freely of our time and abilities where we are, and we send and support the witness of others where we cannot go. Let us continue to give generously.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** *(Unison)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;	Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise God, all creatures here below:	Praise Christ, whose mighty power uplifts!
Alleluia! Alleluia!	Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
	Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(Leader)*

Thank you God, for showing us a better way to live than we are able to devise for ourselves. Thank you for reaching out to win our hearts. Thank you for Jesus Christ, for the ministry that extended your love to the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or broken hearted, for the prayers that demonstrated how we, too, can be in communion with you. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #793**

O Christ, the Healer

Glory to God Hymnal

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Call to Order

Highlights from 2017

Financial Report

Nominating Committee's Report

Pastor's Terms of Call

Adjournment

Lorne Bostwick

Del Hawkins

Jane Holmes

Kathleen Beisse

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE