



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

21st Sunday after Pentecost | October 17, 2021

**Indicates where it is appropriate, but not necessary, to stand.
All speak words in **boldface**.*

❖ Called by God We Gather ❖

GATHERING MUSIC, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Gather and greet each other in joy.)

CALLED TO WORSHIP IN RINGING THE TRINITY AND IN MUSIC
(When the chimes toll, let us silently open our spirit to God's presence in our midst.)
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah arr. John A. Behnke

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord our Lord is so awesome!
**How great the heavens, how small are we,
and yet we sense God's care.** (Ps. 8)
God made the world and welcomed us in it.
Let us worship God who welcomes us all.

*HYMN

Welcoming God

ASSURANCE

***Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,
eating with Jesus and being made new:
some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
God of great love, you stand at the door,
welcoming people outcast and poor.
So you forgive and call us to be
filled with the joy of your jubilee.***

***So may we welcome into our pew
all who in Jesus are being made new –
all those who seek him, wanting to know,
wanting to love him, wanting to grow.***

**Welcoming God, you stand at our door,
as someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.
May we all welcome you in your church.**

TEXT: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette 1998. Tune: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873 ("Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!") TUNE: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873 P.D.
Copied from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000).

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

God of our beginning, **we praise you.**

With words and wind

you created the world and all that is in it.

You welcomed every part and facet with love,
calling what you created, "Good."

When we pause long enough to take all that in,
our joy and gratitude overflow.

We wonder with the psalmist:

**"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?"** (Psalm 8:3-4)

The praise flows from our lips,

"O Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

We remember how Jesus lived here on earth,
welcoming and caring for unlikely people:

women, tax collectors, children,
sinners, outsiders, and betrayers.

He used his gifts to serve and to heal

and made himself vulnerable – even unto death –
to protect and love all of your people.

Who are we, that you would send your Son to us?

Not to condemn but to love and welcome us?

Out of gratitude, we strive to follow you,
but wonder if others can see you in our lives,
our conversations, our welcome.

Confident of your mercy,
we silently offer our confessions.

(Silent prayers of confession)

O Lord our Lord,

**how majestic, how wonderful is your name.
In your mercy, forgive our reluctance to see Christ in everyone.
Give us strength and courage to take risks
as we practice loving in new and powerful ways
that invite all your children to the table
in a welcome that creates shalom.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Friends, what are we that God is mindful of us?
Who are we that God should care for us?
We are God's beloved children; We are siblings of Jesus,
made one Body by God's Spirit.
This is the good news of God's grace:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Let it be.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.*** (TEXT: Trad. liturgical text P.D. TUNE: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851 P.D.)

❖ **To Hear God's Word of Grace** ❖

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:31-46

MUSIC *When the Poor Ones*
Words and Music by José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano
Molly Frederick, soprano; Susan Pearce, alto
(*You are invited to follow text in hymnal, #762*)

SERMON "The Christ I See in You" Rev. Laura Viau

❖ **To Respond in Faith with Gratitude** ❖

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION Personnel Committee
Susan Alley, 8:30 Service; Mike Claxton, 11:00 Service

***LITANY "THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD"**

Blessed are those who serve the poor, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who share the wealth, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who work for good, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who open doors, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who break down walls, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who challenge hate, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who live their faith, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who speak the truth, **they will be called the children of God.**
Blessed are those who show Christ's love, **they will be called the children of God.**

"Worship in a Matthew 25 Church: Resources for Congregations and Presbyteries" Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Office of Theology and Worship

❖ To Depart Blessed to Serve ❖

*HYMN #318 *In Christ There Is No East or West* ST. PETER
vv. 1 & 4

***BENEDICTION AND CHARGE**

CLOSING MUSIC



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