

An Order of Worship
First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell, MT
November 8, 2020

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentences

Open up your hearts; lift up your hands! The time is now to worship.
Lift up your face to our Holy God. The time is now to worship.
Dance, sing, rejoice! Let all that is within you bring praise to the one true God.
The time is now to worship.
To you, great holy God, to we give this hour ~
that your name may be made great and your glory known among all people.
The time is now to worship!

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.
Great Healer, make us aware of your great Spirit here in this place.
Touch and heal our brokenness, and lift us out of despair and doubt.
Dry our tears of pain and sorrow.
Comfort and nourish us with the many blessings of your great love, O God.
May we flourish and blossom in the warmth and compassion of your healing love and grace.
Amen.

Hymn 481

Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show

Call to Confession

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer

Let us pray.
Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,
through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
 so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
 as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray.
O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than the purest honey.
As we turn to your Scripture,
 send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace ~
 so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses,
 so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust.
Amen.

Scripture

Mark 7 (The Message)

The Pharisees, along with some religion scholars who had come from Jerusalem, gathered around him. They noticed that some of his disciples weren't being careful with ritual washings before meals. The Pharisees—Jews in general, in fact—would never eat a meal without going through the motions of a ritual hand-washing, with an especially vigorous scrubbing if they had just come from the market (to say nothing of the scourings they'd give jugs and pots and pans).

The Pharisees and religion scholars asked, "Why do your disciples flout the rules, showing up at meals without washing their hands?"

Jesus answered, "Isaiah was right about frauds like you, hit the bull's-eye in fact:

These people make a big show of saying the right thing,
 but their heart isn't in it.
They act like they are worshiping me,
 but they don't mean it.
They just use me as a cover
 for teaching whatever suits their fancy,
Ditching God's command
 and taking up the latest fads."

He went on, "Well, good for you. You get rid of God's command so you won't be inconvenienced in following the religious fashions! Moses said, 'Respect your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone denouncing father or mother should be killed.' But you weasel out of that by saying that it's perfectly acceptable to say to father or mother, 'Gift! What I owed you I've given as a gift to God,' thus relieving yourselves of obligation to father or mother. You scratch out God's Word and scrawl a whim in its place. You do a lot of things like this." Jesus called the crowd together again and said, "Listen now, all of you—take this to heart. It's not what you swallow that pollutes your life; it's what you vomit—that's the real pollution."

When he was back home after being with the crowd, his disciples said, “We don’t get it. Put it in plain language.”

Jesus said, “Are you being willfully stupid? Don’t you see that what you swallow can’t contaminate you? It doesn’t enter your heart but your stomach, works its way through the intestines, and is finally flushed.” (That took care of dietary quibbling; Jesus was saying that *all* foods are fit to eat.)

He went on: “It’s what comes out of a person that pollutes: obscenities, lusts, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, depravity, deceptive dealings, carousing, mean looks, slander, arrogance, foolishness—all these are vomit from the heart. *There* is the source of your pollution.”

From there Jesus set out for the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house there where he didn’t think he would be found, but he couldn’t escape notice. He was barely inside when a woman who had a disturbed daughter heard where he was. She came and knelt at his feet, begging for help. The woman was Greek, Syro-Phoenician by birth. She asked him to cure her daughter.

He said, “Stand in line and take your turn. The children get fed first. If there’s any left over, the dogs get it.”

She said, “Of course, Master. But don’t dogs under the table get scraps dropped by the children?”

Jesus was impressed. “You’re right! On your way! Your daughter is no longer disturbed. The demonic affliction is gone.” She went home and found her daughter relaxed on the bed, the torment gone for good.

Then he left the region of Tyre, went through Sidon back to Galilee Lake and over to the district of the Ten Towns. Some people brought a man who could neither hear nor speak and asked Jesus to lay a healing hand on him. He took the man off by himself, put his fingers in the man’s ears and some spit on the man’s tongue. Then Jesus looked up in prayer, groaned mightily, and commanded, “*Ephphatha!*—Open up!” And it happened. The man’s hearing was clear and his speech plain—just like that.

Jesus urged them to keep it quiet, but they talked it up all the more, beside themselves with excitement. “He’s done it all and done it well. He gives hearing to the deaf, speech to the speechless.”

Sermon

Recognizing Our Veterans

Veterans Prayer & 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.

Hymn 564

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
(vs. 1 & 4)

Invitation to Give

God is a gracious giver who opens the door to all who seek the wisdom of God's ways.
Therefore, let us offer the gifts of our life and labor and come into God's courts with praise.

Charge and Blessing

Sisters and brothers, be swift to listen, make haste to be kind.
Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
May God, who creates, redeems, and sustains,
 keep you fervent in faith, cheerful in hope, brimming in justice,
 and overflowing in love.
And the blessings of God ~ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ~
 be among you and remain with you always.
Depart in peace. Amen.

Postlude