

An Order of Worship
First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell, MT
September 13, 2020

Words of Welcome

Opening Words & Prayer

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 103 (NRSV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
 who redeems your life from the Pit,
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
 who satisfies you with good as long as you live
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
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.
As a father has compassion for his children,
 so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.
As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;
 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
 on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,
 to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.
The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
 you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.
Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.
Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Hymn of Praise

Let All Things Now Living

554

Litany of Forgiveness

O God, why do you forgive us?
We sing praises to you in our worship,
 but with the same tongue we disparage others who are made in your image.
Why do you forgive us?
We say we love you. Yet we continue in disobedience.
Why do you forgive us?

We thank you for your blessings, yet too often refuse to bless others.
 Why do you forgive us?
 We might find a little time to read our Bibles,
 but we seem to have a lot of time to read trash.
 Why do you forgive us?
 We are thankful for Jesus' death on the cross,
 and yet, by our behavior we seem to nail him to the cross again.
 Yes, why do you forgive us, O God?
 Is it because of your endless supply of grace and mercy?
 Is it because you see our weakness and neediness and have compassion?
 Is it because you know that we confess these faults in utter sincerity
 and repent of the things we have done that we should not have done,
 and we repent of our inaction in not doing what we should?
 We praise you and bless you, O God of all creation,
 for your unfathomable grace that restores us to fellowship with you.
 You are worthy to be praised! Amen.

Hymn of Praise

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

466

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35 (The Message)

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

The living Word of God ~ **Thanks be to God!**

Meditation

Prayers of the People

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.

Installation of Church Officers

Invitation to Give

Hymn of Praise

Here I Am, Lord

525
vs. 1 & 3

Charge and Blessing

God's commandments are an invitation to daily faithfulness.
Love God and your neighbor every day, and you will fulfill all that God intends.

The love of God pursue you;
the grace of Christ overtake you;
and the Holy Spirit flow through you,
as love fills all in all. Amen.

Postlude