

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 11th, 2022



WELCOME AND COMMUNITY SHARING

Rev. Kathleen Henrion

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

The foolish say, 'there is no God.'

**We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice,
the presence of the God who loves us.**

The scoffers of our age ask, 'why do you seek after God?'

**We come, in this time,
because God's grace has spilled over in our lives.**

The hopeless around us think, 'no one cares about me.'

**We come, in this time, to this place,
because Jesus has found us and brought us home.**

PRAISE SONG

"Jesus, Messiah"

Praise Team

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist

When we are short-sighted
and think we can't see you,
you show us a mother
cradling her sick child.

When we are anxious,
certain you don't care about us,
you are confident enough
to trust us with your grace.

When we are cynical,
sure that nothing matters,
you are optimistic enough
to become one of us.

God, you are our Hope.

You sweep the streets

of the world,
to uncover the people
we consider to be trash.
You shine your grace
into sin's shadows
to find us when
we have lost our way.
You would leave us
to go find the sister
we left behind.
Jesus, you are our Joy.

When we walk
the dusty desert of desolation,
you refresh us
with showers of grace.
When our lives
lie in ruined rubble,
you come and build
a foundation for us
out of love and faith.
Spirit, you are our Life.

God in Community, Holy in One,
our Hope, our Joy, our Life,
hear us as we pray as Jesus teaches,
(*The Lord's Prayer*)

PRAISE SONG

"Here I Am to Worship"

Praise Team

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Liturgist

Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken (or thought) ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us, so I invite you to join me as we offer our prayers to God, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, Holy God, we must confess we are unskilled workers at doing good for others. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of

people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us.

How foolish, Searching God, how foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE

"Gloria Patria"

PASSING THE PEACE

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Holy Medley"

Adult Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-10 (NRSVue)

Liturgist

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 So he told them this parable: **4** "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' **7** Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? **9** And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' **10** Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NRSVue)

Liturgist

Gratitude for Mercy

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me^[a] with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible,^[b] the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.^[c] Amen.

HYMN

#462: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

SERMON

"Lost and Found"

Rev. Kathleen Henrion

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Kathleen Henrion

OFFERING

When we could not find our way, you came searching for us. So may our gifts be used to bring hope to those cast aside by the world, peace to those whose lives are troubled, and grace to all who are alone. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

RESPONSE

"Doxology"

CLOSING SONG

"Marvelous Light"

Praise Team

BENEDICTION

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We have been found by our God,
so now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.
We have been welcomed by Jesus,
so now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.
We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit,
so now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope.

SENDING

Rev. Kathleen Henrion