

Worship Resources for Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday

Sunday, January 15, 2023

“In the Service for the Lord’s Day we proclaim, receive, and enact reconciliation with God in Christ. Through the proclamation of the Word we are given the assurance of freedom and peace in Christ and are inspired to share these gifts with others. Through Baptism and the Lord’s Supper we are united with Christ, made one in the Spirit, and empowered to break down the dividing walls of hostility that still separate us from one another. We confess our participation in unjust systems, pray for an end to violence and injustice, offer our gifts to support Christ’s liberating work, and commit ourselves to pursue peace and justice in Jesus’ name.” — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Directory for Worship, *Book of Order*, W-5.0304

Revised Common Lectionary Readings (Year A)

Isaiah 49:1–7
Psalm 40:1–11
1 Corinthians 1:1–9
John 1:29–42

OPENING SENTENCES

I waited patiently for the Lord,
who inclined to me and heard my cry.

See Ps. 40

**God drew me up out of the desolate pit
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.**

The Lord put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

**Many will see and hear;
they will put their trust in the Lord.**

Then I said: “Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**I delight to do your will, O God;
your law is in my heart.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, you sent Jesus into this world
to break down the dividing walls of hostility
and establish justice and peace among us
through the reconciling work of the cross.
Establish a new humanity in Christ.
Make us no longer strangers and aliens,
but citizens with all your faithful people
and members of your holy household,

See Eph. 2

growing together as your dwelling place;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

The confession and pardon may be led from the baptismal font.

The Lord does not desire sacrifice as an offering for sin;
God asks us to show love and mercy,
and waits with an open ear to hear our prayer.

See Ps. 40

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**O Lord our God,
you have made each person in your own image—
your holy handiwork, crowned with beauty.**

**Yet we have denied your image in others.
We have allowed our prejudice
to obscure our vision of our neighbors.
We have built up oppressive systems
that mistreat the many and favor the few.
We have remained silent and safe
while others have suffered so much.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.
Set us free from the sin of structural racism,
strengthen us to dismantle dividing walls,
and help us to build a home of hope for all;
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior.**

Tell the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation:
the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord are everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The prayer for illumination is led from the lectern or pulpit.

O Lord our God,
teach us by your Word
and send us your Spirit
that we may follow in the way
of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

See John 1

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpt), Book of Confessions, 11.3

In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
of every race and people,
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The invitation to discipleship may be led from the baptismal font.

Even before you were born
the Lord God called and claimed you
as a witness to all the peoples of the earth—
lifting up those who are bowed down,
showing honor to those who are rejected,
and giving dignity to those who are despised.

See Isa. 49

How will you use your gifts in God's service?
How will you share in the church's work
of dismantling structural racism
and building the beloved community?
Come and join us in joyful service to the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers of intercession may be led from the midst of the congregation.

Baptized by John in the Jordan,
Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit
to bring good news to those who are oppressed.
As those who share in Christ's baptism
we open our hearts to God's saving work, saying:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

See John 1

For the church ...
that it may become a living sign
of the beloved community you desire.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the world ...
that leaders may work to establish justice
and neighbors and nations may live in peace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For creation ...
that the earth may be protected from harm
and all people share freely in its gifts.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors ...
that our communities may be safe places
for all to flourish, grow, and thrive.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For loved ones ...
that the sick may find relief from suffering
and the sorrowful be comforted.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God,
teach us to follow Jesus faithfully
that we too might "come and see"
the vision of your righteous realm.
Transform these prayers into action
that all people may receive
the promise of abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The invitation to offering may be led from the Communion table.

We give thanks to God always
for the grace we have received in Jesus Christ.

See 1 Cor. 1

God has enriched us with knowledge and speech
that we might renounce the power of evil
and bear witness to the grace and truth of Christ.

Let us be good stewards of these spiritual gifts
by speaking up against structural racism,
standing up with all who are oppressed,
and offering up our lives in service to others.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The prayer of thanksgiving may be led from the Communion table.

God of all grace and peace, we give you thanks
for the abundant gifts of your Spirit
and the witness of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Strengthen us to live according to your way—
offering welcome to strangers,
justice to the oppressed,
liberation to those who are captive,
and sanctuary to those who are persecuted.
Keep us faithful in your service
while we work, watch, and pray
for the coming of your holy realm;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

See 1 Cor. 1

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The blessing and charge may be led from the doors of the church.

The blessing of the holy triune God—
Spirit, Lamb, and Lord—
remain with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

See John 1

Go in peace, doing justice
in the power of the Spirit
and the name of the Lord our God. **Amen.**

HYMNS, PSALMS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS

All suggestions are from Glory to God (GTG): The Presbyterian Hymnal (WJKP, 2013); cross-references to the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal (PH), if applicable, are provided.

As the Wind Song	GTG 292
Called as Partners in Christ's Service	GTG 761, PH 343
Dona Nobis Pacem	GTG 752

Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil	GTG 750
Help Us Accept Each Other	GTG 754, PH 358
I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table	GTG 770
Lift Every Voice and Sing	GTG 339, PH 563
Live into Hope	GTG 772, PH 332
O for a World	GTG 372, PH 386
O God of Every Nation	GTG 756, PH 289
O God, We Bear the Imprint	GTG 759, PH 385
One Bread, One Body	GTG 530
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	GTG 834, PH 404
Sing of God, Made Manifest	GTG 156
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo	GTG 768
The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing	GTG 505
Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord	GTG 477, PH 186
We Shall Overcome	GTG 379