

Order of Worship

Human Rights Day

Call to Worship (Psalm 67)

Leader: May God's face shine upon us, that God's way may be known upon the earth, the peace of God among all nations.

People: Let the peoples pursue your justice and your peace, O God. Let all the people pursue your peace.

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

People: Let the people pursue your justice and your peace, O God. Let all the people pursue your peace.

Hymn: 289 "O God of Every Nation"*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of life, Creator of all people
As equal in dignity and humanity;
You have called us to be one:
To live in unity and harmony;
To build faith and realize community.
Yet we are divided
Race from race; class from class;
Rich from poor; gender from gender;
Old from young; neighbor from neighbor.

**People: O God, by whose love all enmity is brought to an end:
Break down the walls that separate us,
Forgive the sins that divide us,
Free us from pride and prejudice.
O God, give us the courage to repent honestly;
Give us the power to change our lives,
That we might be dead to sin and alive in Christ. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.
As the dove gently settles on the tree, receive the gift of peace.
As the flame rises free with light and warmth, receive the gift of life.

As the wind moves and dances around the earth,
receive the gracious gift of the Spirit.

People: **Come, O Holy Spirit.**
Come as Holy Fire and burn in us,
Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us,
Come as Holy Light and lead us,
Come as Holy Life and dwell within us.
Convict us, convert us, consecrate us,
Until we are set free from the service of ourselves,
To be your servants to the world. AMEN.

First Reading Isaiah 2:2-5

Hymn 367 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”*

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Sermon

Litany of Commitment

Excerpts from the Beatitudes (Luke 6:17-22 and Matthew 5:1-11) and the Charter of the United Nations

Leader: God of all creation, we are your children. We are also the peoples of the United Nations.

People: **Help us seek the security of the whole human family made in your image and for whom Jesus lived, died and lived again.**

Leader: Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.”

People: **God of Peace, we your children and the peoples of the United Nations are “determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”**

Leader: Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

People: **God of Love, we your children and the peoples of the United Nations “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women and nations large and small.”**

Leader: Jesus said, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God.”

People: God of Life, we your children and the peoples of the United Nations will “promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

Leader: Jesus said, “love your neighbor as yourself and love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return.”

People: God of Community, we your children and the peoples of the United Nations will “practice tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbors.” We are called to be peacemakers to the Christ who came that we might know a peace that passes understanding. Lead us to rise up and be called children of God, citizens of a new world community. Guide us to speak boldly, with moral conviction, to the nations and to the world. Let us build, with your grace, a global community by acting now for world peace, for a flowering of justice, for an opportunity of love, for the realization of Your peace. AMEN.

Hymn 386 “O For a World”*

Charge and Benediction

Leader: “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto God’s self and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” Christ charges us to practice God’s shalom and seek life in all its fullness for all God’s people, everywhere.

People: And the courage of Christ, the peace of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit will be always with us. AMEN.

NOTES

This liturgy is created by the Presbyterian United Nations Office.

The hymns are from the Presbyterian Hymnal.