**Worship Resources for Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday**

Sunday, January 16, 2022

“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 C)

Isaiah 62:1–5

Psalm 36:5–10

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

John 2:1–11

**Opening Sentences**

I will no longer keep silent; *See Isa. 62*  
**for the sake of my siblings,  
the beloved people of God,   
I will not rest.**

Your justice will shine like the dawn;

**all people will see your vindication.**

You will no longer be forsaken;  
you will no longer be desolate.  
**The Lord delights in you  
and God will rejoice in your redemption.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Living God, you sent Jesus into this world *See Eph. 2*  
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,  
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 steadfast love of the Lord extends to the heavens *See Isa. 62, Ps. 36*  
and God’s faithfulness rises to the clouds.

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.**

How precious is the steadfast love of the Lord!  
All people may take refuge in the shelter of God’s wings.

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, *See John 2*  
open your Word to us   
and pour out your Spirit  
to reveal the glory   
of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith**

We trust in God, *A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpt),* Book of Confessions*, 11.3*  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,  
male and female, 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.*

To each of us, *See 1 Cor. 12*  
God has given the gifts of the Spirit   
for the common good.

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.*

At a wedding feast in Cana, *See John 2*  
Jesus turned water into wine.  
Trusting in God’s transforming work,  
we offer our prayers to the Lord, saying:   
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, transform us  
that we may be fountains of blessing  
and vessels of justice and peace.  
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.*

Now there are varieties of gifts, *See 1 Cor. 12*  
but the same Spirit;  
and there are varieties of services;   
but the same Lord;  
and there are varieties of activities,  
but it is the same God   
who activates all of them in everyone.

Let us be active   
in the cause of justice.  
Let us be diligent  
in the service of others.  
Let us give generously  
for the work of reconciliation.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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

Gracious God, you have invited us*See Ps. 36*to feast on the abundance of your house  
and drink from the river of your delight.   
We give you thanks and praise   
for your steadfast love and faithfulness.  
Lead us forth from this place  
to extend your faithfulness and love to others—  
offering welcome to strangers,   
justice to the oppressed,  
liberation to those who are captive,  
and sanctuary to those who are persecuted,  
until all people may know  
the wonder of your saving work;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing and Charge**

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

The blessing of the Holy One— *See 1 Cor. 12*  
Spirit, Lord, and God—  
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

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