

## 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

Psalms 36:5–10

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

John 2:1–11

### OPENING SENTENCES

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

*See Isa. 62*

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  
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.**

*See Eph. 2*

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

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

The steadfast love of the Lord extends to the heavens  
and God's faithfulness rises to the clouds.

*See Isa. 62, Ps. 36*

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

*See John 2*

## 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,

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,  
God has given the gifts of the Spirit  
for the common good.

*See 1 Cor. 12*

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,  
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.**

*See John 2*

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,  
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.

*See 1 Cor. 12*

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  
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.**

*See Ps. 36*

#### **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

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

The blessing of the Holy One—  
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.**

*See 1 Cor. 12*

#### **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