

Worship Resources for Eradicating Systemic Poverty Sunday

Christ the King / Reign of Christ, November 21, 2021



“At the conclusion of the Christian year, we celebrate the sovereignty of the God who is known to us in Jesus Christ. On this day, as on every day, we give honor and glory to the Lord of heaven and earth and watch and pray for the coming of God’s realm of righteousness, justice, and peace. Above all earthly powers, the crucified and risen Lord alone claims our adoration and allegiance. We proclaim that Jesus Christ is first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega.” — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), 394

Revised Common Lectionary Readings (Year B)

SEMICONTINUOUS	COMPLEMENTARY
2 Samuel 23:1–7	Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14
Psalms 132:1–12 (13–18)	Psalms 93
Revelation 1:4b–8	Revelation 1:4b–8
John 18:33–37	John 18:33–37

OPENING SENTENCES

O Lord, remember the hardships of David:
how he swore, “I will not enter into my house
until I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”
**Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.**

Ps. 132 (excerpts)

The Lord swore a sure oath to David,
from which God will not turn back.
**“This is my resting place forever,” says the Lord.
“Here I will reside, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless its provisions;
I will satisfy with bread those who are poor.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God,
your kingdom is not of this world.
You sent Jesus into this world
to proclaim the coming of your holy realm
of justice, equality, and dignity for all.
Strengthen us to serve you,
bringing good news to people who are poor
and liberty to those who are oppressed,
until your will is done on earth as in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

See John 18

CONFESSION AND PARDON

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

Grace and peace to you from the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come,
and from Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
who loves us and sets us free from sin.

See Rev. 1, Luke 1

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

**Holy and eternal one, God of all mercy and might,
we confess that we have not been faithful servants
in your realm of righteousness, justice, and peace.**

**You scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts
while we cling to prejudice and privilege.**

**You bring down the powerful from their thrones
while we perpetuate patterns of oppression.**

**You fill the hungry with good things
while we turn away neighbors in need.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

**Set us free from our captivity and corruption,
strengthen us to seek your will in the world,
and teach us to worship and serve you alone;
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior.**

Grace and peace to you from the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come.

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,
guide us by your Word and Spirit,
that we may listen to your voice
and testify to the truth
of good news for all;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

See John 18

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpt), Book of Confessions, 11.2

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor

and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

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

Jesus reigns over all the rulers of the earth,
and he calls us to be his holy people—
breaking down dividing walls of hostility
and building up communities of justice and peace.

See Rev. 1, John 18

Will you listen to his voice? Will you answer his call?
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.

As children of the covenant,
we lift up our voices to the Lord,
offering our prayers of intercession.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

See 2 Sam. 23

For the church ...
that it may be a sanctuary for people in need
and a signpost on the path of justice.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the world ...
that leaders may seek the common good
and people may live in true community.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For creation ...
that the earth may be spared from destruction

and its gifts may be used with wisdom and equity.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors ...
that the most vulnerable may have fair access
to good food, housing, and healthcare.
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,
remember your covenant with us
and your great love for all the world.
Transform these prayers into action
that all creatures may prosper
and praise your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

Remember the generosity of the Lord Jesus Christ,
who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor.

See 2 Cor. 8

Therefore, God has called us to seek a fair balance
between abundance and need, in order that
“The one who has much does not have too much,
and the one who has little does not have too little.”

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

Ancient and eternal God,
we give you thanks and praise
for your creative purpose,
your redeeming work,
and your unending love.
Receive the offering of our lives.
Use us and use these gifts
to establish your everlasting reign—
a new creation of abundant life for all
that shall never be destroyed.
All honor and glory are yours,
now and always;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

See Dan. 7

BLESSING AND CHARGE

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

The blessing of the Lord God,
the Alpha and the Omega,
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

See Rev. 1

Go in peace, doing justice
in 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.

All Hail to God's Anointed	GTG 149, PH 205
Arise, Your Light Is Come!	GTG 744, PH 411
For the Troubles and the Sufferings	GTG 764
God of Grace and God of Glory	GTG 307, PH 420
Heaven Shall Not Wait	GTG 773
In an Age of Twisted Values	GTG 345
Live into Hope	GTG 772, PH 332
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout	GTG 100
My Soul Gives Glory to My God	GTG 99, PH 600
O for a World	GTG 372, PH 386
O Holy City, Seen of John	GTG 374, PH 453
Sound a Mystic Bamboo Song	GTG 323
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples	GTG 757, PH 434
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound	GTG 766
The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor	GTG 763
The Right Hand of God	GTG 332
The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing	GTG 505
When All Is Ended	GTG 376
When the Poor Ones	GTG 762, PH 407
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life	GTG 343, PH 408
Why Stand So Far Away, My God?	GTG 786