**Worship Resources for Eradicating Systemic Poverty Sunday**

Christ the King / Reign of Christ, November 20, 2022

“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 C)

Semicontinuous Complementary

Jeremiah 23:1–6 Jeremiah 23:1–6

Luke 1:68–79 Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11–20 Colossians 1:11–20

Luke 23:33–43 Luke 23:33–43

**Opening Sentences**

God is our refuge and strength, *Ps. 46 (excerpts)*

**a very present help in trouble.**

There is a river whose streams

make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city;**

**it shall not be moved;**

**God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The Lord of hosts is with us;

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, through Jesus Christ *See Luke 23*  
you showed your love and favor  
for people who are mocked and scorned,  
condemned and derided,  
abused and oppressed,   
and given up for dead.  
Strengthen us to stand with them,  
to speak out against injustice,  
and to serve all who are in need,   
that we may rejoice together   
when Jesus comes into his kingdom.  
This we pray in his holy name. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

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

The Lord God has rescued us from the realm of evil, *See Col. 1, Jer. 23, Luke 23*and has delivered us into the kingdom of Christ,   
in whom we have redemption: the forgiveness of sins.

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

**Loving God,   
we confess that we have failed   
in our love for one another.**

**You are a shepherd to those who are poor,  
but we pass by people in need.   
You are faithful in keeping your promises,  
but we forget our calling to service.   
You show mercy to those who are condemned,  
but we offer judgment and scorn.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Teach us to do justice,   
fill our hearts with kindness,  
and lead us in humble service;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

In Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell  
and through Christ, God calls us to be reconciled.

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.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, *See Luke 1*for you look with favor upon your people.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
help us to heed the voices of the prophets  
and prepare the way for your coming realm  
of righteousness, justice, and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith**

We trust in Jesus Christ, *A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpt),* Book of Confessions*, 11.2*  
fully human, fully God.

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.*

Hear the promise of the Lord: *See Jer. 23*  
“I myself will gather the remnant of the flock.  
I will raise up shepherds over them,  
and they shall not fear any longer.”

Fear not, people of God.  
The Lord is our righteousness,  
and the Lord is waiting to welcome us home.

**Prayers of Intercession**

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

Good Shepherd, *See Jer. 23, Ps. 46, Col. 1, Luke 1, Luke 23*  
you have claimed us as your flock,  
and still you go out searching  
for those who are lost, lonely,  
and longing for redemption.   
Jesus, remember us   
**when you come into your kingdom.**

We pray for the church …  
Help us to be a community of welcome  
for those who are in need.   
Jesus, remember us   
**when you come into your kingdom.**

We pray for the world …  
Bring justice and reconciliation  
through the love of the cross.   
Jesus, remember us   
**when you come into your kingdom.**

We pray for creation …  
Heal the earth by the grace of Christ,  
in whom all things hold together.   
Jesus, remember us   
**when you come into your kingdom.**

We pray for our neighbors …  
Be a refuge to those in need  
and help them in times of trouble.   
Jesus, remember us   
**when you come into your kingdom.**

We pray for loved ones …  
Surround them with tender mercy  
and lead them in the path of peace.   
Jesus, remember us   
**when you come into your kingdom.**

Good Shepherd,  
guide us in our prayer and in our practice,  
that our lives may proclaim  
your way of abundant life for all.  
This we pray in your holy name. **Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

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

Our Lord and Shepherd has promised *See Jer. 23*  
to gather up the scattered flock—  
welcoming the outcast,   
caring for the vulnerable,  
and feeding the hungry.

Let us join in God’s saving work,   
doing justice and seeking righteousness.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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

Holy God, we give you thanks*See Col. 1*  
that you have enabled us to share  
in the inheritance of your saints in light.   
Receive the offering of our lives.  
Use our lives and our gifts   
to accomplish your saving work   
of redemption and reconciliation,  
that all may know the abundant life  
of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**Blessing and Charge**

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

The tender mercy of our God, *See Luke 1*  
the guiding light of the Holy Spirit,  
and the deep peace of the risen Lord  
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

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