

Worship Outline

February 24, 2019

Welcome

Prelude

Cares Chorus
arr. Peggy Belcher
Handbell Choir

Introit

Within These Walls
West

Call to Worship

God lifts us from death to life
and preserves us for God's purposes
through the compassion of
Jesus Christ our Lord
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
With thanksgiving, praise the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...
Holy God,
you speak to us in a voice unexpected
and come to us in ways we do not recognize.
Never leaving us to our own devices or defenses,
you are the ever-present, all-powerful God.
Call us out in faith again and again,
until we learn to walk with you
in steadfast love and faithfulness,
and in peace.
In the name of him who comes to us upon the waters,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

+Hymn 8

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Unison Prayer of Confession

The psalmist tells us
that when we turn to God in our hearts,
God speaks peace to the faithful.

As we turn to God in true confession of our sin,
we trust in God,
whose shalom makes us whole.

Lord Jesus, we call upon you. Save us!
We are intimidated by our circumstances,
distracted from your purposes,
drowning in doubts and fears.
We are presumptuous about your will,
belittling others and magnifying ourselves.
We envy the blessings of others,
secretly despising their dreams.
We have hardened our hearts
to the suffering of our brothers and sisters,
feeding ourselves in face of the injustice
that holds them captive.

Lord Jesus, who searches our hearts,
lift us from sin and help us to walk with you
in faith, humility, and brotherly-sisterly love.

Silence is kept.

Response 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance

Here is good news for everyone:

God is gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love,
and gives us forgiveness and grace.

We do not have to earn it with sacrifice
because it is a free gift from a generous God!

The Peace of Christ (responsive)

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us remember as we greet each other, that God has placed us in God's loving community. All who come to this sanctuary are welcome companions on this day. Please turn to those nearest you and greet them with words of peace.

+Gathering Song 669

Let's Sing unto the Lord

Let's sing unto the Lord a hymn of glad rejoicing.

Let's sing a hymn of love, at the new day's fresh beginning.

God made the sky above, the stars, the sun, the oceans; and God saw it was good, for those works were filled with beauty.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let's sing unto the Lord. Alleluia!

Let's sing unto the Lord a hymn of adoration,

Which shows our love and faith and hope of all creation.

Through all that has been made, the Lord is praised for greatness, and so we sing to God, who bestows such lovely blessing.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let's sing unto the Lord. Alleluia!

Sharing the Story

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

Anthem

It Is Well With My Soul

Courtney

Chancel Choir

Martha Keeley, fluter

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14: 13-33

Let us pray...

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+Hymn 460

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Prayers of the People

God of power and love,
you are with us in every circumstance of this life.
We thank you for your steadfast faithfulness.
We thank you for the gift of your peace,
which comes to us even in times of chaos and fear,
trouble and doubt.
We thank you for your powerful arms of mercy
that grasp us when we are sinking;
for your powerful Word
that coaxes us
even when we are hiding and afraid.
We put our trust in you,
for you alone can save us.

We ask for your power and love
to overwhelm the chaos of the nations.
In every place of war,
send your encompassing shalom
to restore and repair all that is torn and broken.
We pray that violent and hostile struggles
will be defeated by good.
Give us faith and courage to follow Christ so closely
that divisions are dismantled,
reconciliation is accomplished,
and love casts out all fear.

Increase mutual understanding
and a sense of unity
in our community,
in this congregation,
in the church around the world.
In our personal relationships,

bring healing where there is estrangement and hurt.
In our relationship to your creation,
give us creativity and perseverance
as we work to be faithful, tender stewards
of all that you have so wondrously made.

We entrust to your providence and care
all those who suffer;
all who are hiding from you,
from others,
or even from themselves
because of fear or feelings of unworthiness.

To one struggling with doubt,
increase faith.

To one enduring persecution or prejudice,
bring freedom.

For those caught in the grip of anxiety and uncertainty,
grant the calm rest that your peace alone gives.

And for all who face illness, pain, or even death,
we pray for restoration and wholeness
to fill them—in heart, mind, and body.

You alone can save us, almighty God;
hear our cries to you, we pray.

Gather us up
and set us in safety,
and we will praise your name.

We ask all things
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who truly is your Son. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer Response

Calm to the Waves

Bringle

Offering

Invitation

Jay and Betty LeCrone joined Glendale Presbyterian Church 48 years ago in January, 1971. They quickly embraced this church family, both serving the congregation as elders at various points. Jay also served as a deacon. Betty was instrumental in establishing GPC's involvement in Room at the Inn. As college students they met in the school band and continued making music together with the handbell choir. Jay also sang bass in the chancel choir keeping the choir in stitches with his jokes. Their involvement in GPC was huge and they were truly loved. Jay died in 2017 and Betty in 2018. They are deeply missed by many and never far from our memory. Last week, GPC was once more reminded of Betty and Jay's dedication to our church. We received from their estate a generous donation of over \$20,000. Their willingness to continue to support the mission of GPC even after they are gone is a tremendous gift to our congregation and we are profoundly grateful for their generosity.

Because God cares for all without distinction
and is generous to all beyond measure,
so we, God's people,
are to care for all with generosity and gladness.
We bring our offerings
to be used for God's good purposes
in the church and in the world.

Offertory

O How He Loves You and Me

Kaiser

+Doxology 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God, above, ye heavenly host; praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

+Prayer of Dedication

Generous God,
we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives.
Because there is so much more we can become,
and so much more we can do,
we pray that our faith will increase;

that our practice of generosity will be enlarged;
and that our joy in believing
will encourage others
as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ;
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Sending

+Hymn 312
God

Take Us As We Are, O

+Blessing and Charge

Step out in faith,
trusting that the God who has called you
is able to keep you from falling
and holds you in love.

May the steadfast love and faithfulness
of God surround you;
the peace of Christ enfold you;
and the Holy Spirit encourage you,
now and forever.

+Congregational Response 547 (verse 1)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*Go my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go my children, with my blessing, you are my own.*

Postlude

Honor and Majesty
Broughton

Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2