

# Worship Outline 2019-08-25

Hebrews Series

Communion Sunday

## Gathering

Prelude

*Jesus Guide Me*

Bach

+Call to Worship

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

**The conviction of things not seen.**

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God,

**So that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.**

By faith our ancestors set out for a place not knowing where they were going,

**By faith our ancestors saw only a glimpse of the promise,  
yet trusted God.**

By faith, we gather to worship our God,

**We trust in the glimpse of the promise we have received,  
and hope in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

+Hymn 536

*Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

Unison Prayer of Confession

Let us turn to God in prayer, as we confess together:

**Almighty God,**

**You have set before us the path**

**but we have wandered on our own**

**to try to find our way.**

**Sometimes we are like toddlers  
and we hear your call and come back.**

**Other times, we are children testing boundaries,  
ignoring your call until fear finally makes us look back.**

**And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion,  
demanding to be cut loose and set free,  
not knowing how much we still need  
to seek your wisdom and guidance.**

**But most of all, too often we think we are adults  
and have figured it all our and know our own way,  
only to stumble and stray so far.**

**Remind us, parental God,  
that we are always your children,  
that we are never fully grown up in your sight,  
that we always have much to learn.  
Help us to seek You every day,  
to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance,  
and help us to return to the path and walk with You.  
In the name of Christ,  
who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray.**

*Silence is kept.*

Assurance (responsive)

Like our grandparents in the faith, we can dare to trust in the promises of God, even without any actual proof staring us in the face. This is the good news of God's love.

**We will trust in those things that last, in the grace, which counts, in the mercy no one can take away from us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

Welcome and Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

+Gathering Song 155

*Raise a Song of Gladness*

***Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.***

***Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.***

***Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!***

***Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!***

## Sharing the Story

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

Anthem

*The Lost Chord*

Sullivan

James Fiete

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11: 1-16

Let us pray...God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the Book of Hebrews. Let us listen for God's word.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

4By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. 5By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." 6And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. 7By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. 8By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. 12Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." 13All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Sermon

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

Preaching Point: The idea is that if there is to be faith, something beyond our senses must pull it into being.

+Hymn 816

*If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

Prayers of the People  
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.**

Offering

Invitation

By faith we understand that everything seen was made by God  
from things that are not visible.

By faith we bring these things,  
especially our very selves as co-creating partners  
for constructing a heavenly homeland on earth,  
whose architect and builder is God.

Let us gather our gifts and offer them to God.

Offertory

*Scottish Pastorale*

Lorenz

+Doxology

*We Lift Our*

*Voices*

**We lift our voices; we lift our hands;  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord use our lives;  
they are yours: we are an offering.**

Dedication

Let us pray...All it takes is one person, then another, than more, who hear God's hopes,  
trust God's promises, and have the faith to merge our gifts together, so they can be used

to bring hope, healing, grace, and peace to our communities, to our sisters and brother.  
This we pray. Amen.

## Sending

+Hymn 741

*Guide My Feet*

+Benediction and Blessing

+Congregational Benediction 540  
*Friends!*

*Farewell, Good*

**Farewell, good friends!**  
**Farewell, good friends!**  
**Shalom, shalom!**  
**Till we meet again, Till we meet again,**  
**Shalom, shalom.**

Postlude

*Postlude in D*  
Rinck