

Order of Worship January 30, 2022

Gathering Music

Gather Us In

GTG #401

Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken, gather us in - the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery, we are the old - who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty, gather us in - the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place, the new light is shining; now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in - and hold us forever, gather us in - and make us your own.
Gather us in - all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Call to Worship

Liturgist

God whose love is vast and measureless,
wider than the universe, unlimited and infinite: In wonder

We worship you.

God whose love will never run dry,
will never fall short, will never fail: In wonder

We worship you.

God whose love
knows nothing of our distinctions,
our notions of 'deserving' and 'undeserving',
and which encompasses everyone: In wonder

We worship you.

God of Hope,
Hope nonetheless. Hope despite.
Hope regardless. Hope still.

Hope where we had ceased to hope.
Hope amid what threatens hope.
Hope with those who feed our hope.
Hope beyond what we had hoped.

We worship you

In Faith, Hope and Love let us sing praise to our God!

Hymn of Praise:

Where Charity and Love Prevail

GTG #316

Where charity and love there God is ever found
Brought here together by Christ's love by love we are thus bound
Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ God's holy Son
As members of each body joined in him we are made one
Let strife among us be unknown let all contentions cease
Be God's the glory that we seek be his our only peace
Let us forgive each other's faults as we our won confess
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness
Love can exclude no race or creed if honored by God's name
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same

Steven Johnson

Preparing for the Word

Call to confession

Liturgist

God loved this us so much
that God sent Jesus Christ to live and die among us,
in order that we might have life. Let us confess when we squander that life:

Prayer of confession

**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be,
The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.
The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate.
We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty.
Forgive us, Mighty God, look with grace upon us.
We want to live secure in the hope you promise, the faith you give,
Secure in your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen**

Words of forgiveness

Liturgist

Even now—yes, even in this very moment,
God comes to us,
bringing hope,
bringing forgiveness,
bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.
Let us rejoice in the Good News:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Hearing the Word

Message for all God's Children:

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Prayer for illumination:

Liturgist

Blessed God,
who caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that we may embrace and ever hold fast
the blessed hope of everlasting life.
Signs of heaven, sighs of hope. Amen

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 71:1-6

Liturgist

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ashamed.
In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.
Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.
Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.
For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.
I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.

Anthem: Your Love Compels Me

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Sermon: These Three Abide

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Hymn: Though I May Speak GTG #693

**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

Responding to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist

God-Giving, Hope-Renewing God we praise and thank your God for the renewal by which God's hope love and gift of faith continues to blesses us. God's gift of love, faith and hope is always new and precious to us, because it is so much more than our idle day-dreams, or our wistful wishes; so much more than our ambitions of personal or professional success; so much more than our most optimistic plans. As we receive these lavish gifts, we have something that we can believe in, to trust in and rely upon. In thanksgiving let us offer our tithes, talents and gifts to the Lord.

Doxology

GTG #607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. AMEN**

Prayers of the people

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Holy God, you knew us before we took our first breath.
You uttered your living Word and brought forth light, love, and life.
You gathered us from the dust of the earth and called us your people.
You sent us into the world to proclaim your mighty and wondrous deeds.
You are with us even now as we continue our call.
Lord, in your righteousness, teach us your faith, love and hope.

Mighty God, you have done great things; who is like you?
You alone are our rock of refuge.
You alone are our strong fortress.
You alone are our hope and in you alone is our trust.
Lord, in your righteousness, teach us your faith, love and hope.

Gracious God, do not be far from us!
Strengthen us that we might be givers of your grace and
may your steadfast love be known to all of your children.
Send your Holy Spirit to empower our hands to
clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and love all as you have first loved us.
Lord, in your righteousness, teach us your faith, love and hope.

Loving God, hear today the prayers that we lift up to you.
Be with those of us who are in this church, in this city, in this nation, in this world,
Give us hearts of courage and songs of your grace
to tell others of your righteous acts and deeds of salvation.
Lord, in your righteousness, teach us your faith, love and hope.

Abundant God, be with those of us that yearn for your restoration and healing.
Today, we ask your blessing upon [*list names of those in need of healing*].
We lift up to you those who we bring before you

with our lips or within our hearts...

Lord, in your righteousness, teach us your faith, love and hope.

Faithful God, your power and your righteousness reach the heavens.

Hear us, your servants, as we follow you to the day when

faith, hope, and love will be upon the lips of all of us, your children.

These things we pray in the name of your Son who taught us to pray saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Going forth in Joy!

Closing Hymn

In the Midst of New Dimensions

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.

Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, lead us where the eagles soar, lead us where the eagles soar.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,

Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

We your people, ours the journey now and evermore,
now and ever, evermore.

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,

Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams

We your people, ours the journey now and evermore,
now and ever, evermore.

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,

Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, lead us where the eagles soar, lead us where the eagles soar.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,

May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

We your people, ours the journey, lead us where the eagles soar, lead us where the eagles soar.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Let us go out now into the love of God the Father, Creator and Sustainer,
who gives all good things seen and unseen.

Let us go forth in certain faith in God the Son, Savior and Redeemer,
who died for our sins and rose again.

Let us go forth in steadfast hope in God the Spirit, Teacher and Comforter,
who moves us to sing "Our God reigns!"
In who alone we put our hope. Amen

Postlude

Steven Johnson