

**Order of Worship for September, 18, 2022**

*Gathering Music*

Lord, I lift Your name on high  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord, I lift Your name on high

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*Welcome*

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

*Call To Worship*

L: Praise the Lord! Praise O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

**C: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.**

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C: The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Praise the Lord!**

*Hymn*

Praise Ye the Lord

GTG #35

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen  
sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.

### **PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

#### ***Call to Confession***

Our hearts long for God, and we know we fall short of God's glory, so let us now confess to God the ways we have individually and collectively fallen short of God's Grace. Please pray with me...

#### ***Liturgist***

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Dear God we often find it easier to talk about you than to you. And when we do talk to you we find it easier to talk than to listen for your voice, and we find it easier to listen than to act once we hear your call. Forgive us our failures to talk, to listen and to do. Your love is never ending, and that scares us, pardon our fear, our inattentiveness and our inaction. Move us in your direction and break down our defenses. This we pray through Jesus Christ the ultimate listener and doer. Amen.**

### ***Words of Forgiveness***

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

The love of God is indeed from everlasting to everlasting. And because of this I can with full confidence say to you that we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God.

### ***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**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Liturgist*

Eternal God, your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and enlightens us to hear your Word fresh each day. Help us to rely always on your promises in Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### ***Reading from Amos 8:4-7***

*Liturgist*

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying, "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"—skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done.

***Reading from the Gospel of Luke 16:1-13***

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’”

“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’”

“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ “‘Nine hundred gallons[a] of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels[b] of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

***Sermon***

***“Why The Dishonest Manager Is A model To Emulate”***

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Responding to the Word**

***Affirmation of Faith:***

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

**We say together in faith holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. We believe in God the Father, who created all things: for by his will they were created and have their being. We believe in God the Son, who was slain: for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation. We believe in God the Holy Spirit: the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

(New Patterns for Worship, and throughout Common Worship: <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/newpatterns/contents/sectione.aspx>)

*Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer*

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

*Invitation To The Offertory*

*Liturgis*

Lord, we come before you today to present our tithes and offerings to you in faith. We invite all of you at this time to share God's abundance—in person, online, or in any way that you feel called to do so.

*Offertory*

*Offertory Prayer*

*Liturgist*

**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(<https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au>)

*Hymn*

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.

In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

2 We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.

Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;

you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

4 Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.

Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

*Benediction*

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

*Postlude*