

A Liturgy for Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Ministries
June 16, 2013
Robert Rush

Call to Worship

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands

**People: Serve the Lord with gladness,
come into God's presence with singing!**

Leader: Know that the Lord is God!

It is God that made us, and we are God's.

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

**People: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise!
Give thanks to God, bless God's name!**

Leader: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Call to Confession

But God shows God's love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (From Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of the world.
You have called us to proclaim salvation and make disciples of all nations.
But we want to limit our ministry to our own little circle.
Although you have called us to go,
we are content to sit and hope people will come.
You have called us to deny ourselves,
but we prefer to indulge ourselves.
You expect the Church to grow,
but we are satisfied with the people we have.
Forgive us, Lord, and renew us for ministry.
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God forgives us our sins and does not remember them. Thanks be to God.
As God has forgiven us, we must also forgive others.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and mind to hear the word as it is read, and proclaimed. Give us a willingness to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People/Intercession

O Lord, we praise you for the privilege of praying for others, and for the awareness that they are praying for us. We praise you for Memphis Theological Seminary and the Program of Alternate Studies. May your Spirit guide each student and each professor. We pray for the ministry of Bethel University as they help to prepare persons for a variety of careers. We pray that you will bless the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home as they try to give stability and hope to children and adults who are living in dysfunctional family situations.

We long for there to be peace in our world. We pray for guidance to persons who serve as military chaplains and protect those who are serving in the military. We are grateful for persons who serve as chaplains in hospitals and other institutions. Help them to inspire faith and hope among people who sometimes seem to have no hope.

We pray that your Spirit will assist our missionaries serving in various places. We pray that you will daily strengthen people who minister through the Ministry Council on the Communications Ministry Team, Discipleship Ministry Team, Missions Ministry Team and Pastoral Development Ministry Team. Bless each team and staff member and give them wisdom as they plan the programs of the Church. We pray for the Board of Stewardship, the Office of the General Assembly and the Historical Foundation—their boards and staff. Give them the knowledge they need to do your work. We especially pray for the new Director of Our United Outreach. Help him to know your will for our Church and celebrate its ministry with all our churches.

You know that we confront people with terminal illnesses, joblessness, homelessness, people who are grieving the death of a loved one, or are disappointed as a result of a major setback in life. Daily we see injustices in our society; give us the strength and willingness to be pro-active in trying to change some of these injustices. We pray for each Christian to be sensitive to the needs of those in the Church and outside the Church. We pray in the name of the one who loves us and gave himself for us. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

Isaiah 49:1-6
1 Peter 2:9-10
John 10:1-18
John 14:12-14
John 15:1-11

Offertory Sentence

You are invited to honor God by returning joyfully God's tithes and your offerings.

Offertory Prayer

O God, who has provided for each of us, we give you thanks for the opportunity to share so that people in our communities and throughout the world may be introduced to the gospel. In the holy name of Jesus. Amen.

Charge

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above and not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you all will appear with him in glory. (From Colossians 3:1-4)

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit. Now and forever. Amen.