

A Liturgy for Denomination Day

February 2, 2014

Rev. Mary Kathryn Kirkpatrick

Call to Worship

Leader: God so loves the world!

People: We come from the world as a people called to worship.

Leader: God welcomes us, no matter who we are,

People: As we praise our loving God!

Call to Confession

My friends, even as a people called to be Cumberland Presbyterians, we are not without sin. We often struggle with what God requires of us; there are many things that we cannot release, even for God. We are eager to offer God chains of platinum and gold, expensive things that have no personal meaning to us. Later, when we discover that God simply requires us to be just, kind and humble, we find that it is easier for us to give God the expensive material things.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we come together this day to admit that we have sinned. We find ourselves wanting to be right. We want to be in control. We forget all that you have done for us. Help us to be grateful. Help us to love justice and to be kind to each other, striving to listen for your guidance. We humbly ask your forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Here is good news! Although we will never be perfect, God works in ways that we do not always understand. As God's love and grace enter our lives, we should grow in faith, hope, love, discernment, and other gifts of the Spirit. For God did not send Jesus Christ into the world to condemn us but to save us. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

God of us all, open our eyes and ears that we might better see and hear your word. Send your Spirit among us, that the word we receive will point us toward you. Be with your servant as he/she preaches your word in conviction and humility. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

Micah 6:1-8 (from today's Revised Common Lectionary)

Matthew 5:1-12 (from today's Revised Common Lectionary)

John 3:16-17

Prayers of the People

Creator God, just as you made us, you also offer us comfort and healing.

You do not cause our mistakes and our illnesses.

We know that you do not wish upon us lives of pain and suffering.

You desire for us to know you in a deep relationship.

You want us to show others who you are through our words and actions.
Be with the leaders in our world, our nation, and our community—
that they might seek your guidance.
Be with our family members and friends as they struggle with daily life.
Be with the caregivers as they struggle to provide peace and comfort in difficult situations.
Help us to be aware of the needs of others,
and give us the wisdom and strength to do your will in all situations.
We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Just as we are in need of God, others are in need of God through us. Jesus teaches us how to respond to people in need. When we put God first, God provides opportunities for us to be used for evangelism. With loving spirits, let us now worship God with our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We bring these gifts to you, O God, as a grateful people. We cannot give back enough to fully thank you for all that you do for us, but we pray that you will multiply these gifts. We pray for the direction of the Holy Spirit to meet many needs. We dedicate these gifts to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Charge

What does God require of us? To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly, and to be people of grace.

Benediction

As you leave this place, go in peace. May God's love and infinite grace live in you. May the saving light of Jesus Christ shine through you. And may the Holy Spirit guide and protect you now and forever. Alleluia! Amen!