

**A Liturgy for World Missions Sunday**  
**May 24, 2015**  
**Liturgy by TJ Malinoski**  
**Children's Message by Pam Phillips-Burk**

**Call to Worship**

Through the scriptures, through the sacraments, through our worship,

**The Spirit is working to help people know the love of God in Jesus Christ.**

Among believers, in our words, in our actions and in ways beyond our understanding,

**The Spirit is working to help people know the love of God in Jesus Christ.**

In this place, in our homes, at our school and at our work,

**The Spirit is working to help people know the love of God in Jesus Christ.**

The Spirit is everywhere, preceding all desires, purpose and intention.

While possible for all to be saved with it, none can be saved without it.

**Let us celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the world today.**

**Let us worship!**

*(inspired by the Catechism and Confession of Faith for Cumberland Presbyterians)*

**Opening Prayer**

Spirit of the living God, may your outpouring fall upon us this day. May it melt us in a refinement that glorifies your name. May it mold us like clay into a new image; a new creation to benefit all humanity. May it fill us with grace, compassion and care. Use this worship to melt us, to mold us, to fill us so that we will proclaim the gospel in this new week. Amen.

**Call to Confession**

Let us pray together.

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of life and mercy, our past and present is dirty with selfish motives and stifling distractions. We confess that we say that we will do better, try harder, and be more committed but we do not follow through. We confess our attraction with instant gratification, the pursuit of possessing leverage and the desire for unearned privilege. We fail to recognize the outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon our lives, ignoring the forgiveness and freedom offered and instead embracing heartache and trouble as a predicament of life. Help us to listen to your calming words of compassion for we are very hard of hearing. Forgive us of our sin and fill our lives with grace and reconciling love. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

The encouraging letter to Titus says that our kind and loving God steps in to give us new life. Through the baptismal waters and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we have life and have it

abundantly. And there is more life to come—an eternity of life! Let us live as a people who have been forgiven and made free. **Thanks be to God!**

*(based on Titus 3)*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

All who are united to Christ by faith are also united to one another in love. (5.10)

**In this community of faith, we are commissioned to share the grace of Christ with one another, to bear one another's burdens, and to reach out to all people. (5.10)**

This community of faith has a special meaning for we belong to a particular community that is one, holy, universal and apostolic; the Church. (5.01, 5.11)

**We, the Church, are nurtured and sustained by worship, by the proclamation and study of the word, and by the celebration of the sacraments. (5.28)**

The Church includes all people of all ages, past, present and future who respond in faith to God's covenant of grace. (5.06)

**We are commissioned to witness to all persons who have not received Christ as Lord and Savior. (5.28)**

God's mighty act of reconciling love, the covenant of grace, was accomplished in Jesus Christ, the divine Son who became flesh to be the means by which the sins of the world are forgiven. (3.07)

**We are called into being and exist to reach out to those who have not experienced God's grace in Christ. (5.29)**

God acts redemptively in Jesus Christ because of the sins of the world and continues with the same intent in the Holy Spirit. (4.01)

**We are responsible to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. (5.30)**

The Holy Spirit works through the scriptures, the sacraments, our worship, our witness, both word and deed, and in ways beyond our understanding. (4.02)

**We are responsible to give witness to the mighty acts of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (5.31)**

The call and work of the Spirit is solely of God's grace. The Spirit's call precedes our desires, purpose and intention to come to Christ. (4.03)

**Whosoever will, therefore, may be saved but not without the illuminating influence of the Holy Spirit. (4.03)**

For all who respond with repentance and trustful acceptance of God's love in Christ, salvation and life is here! (4.04)

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*(based on the Confession of Faith for Cumberland Presbyterians)*

**Children's Message**

**Missionaries: Here, There, and Everywhere!**

Missionaries are pretty interesting people. A missionary is someone who answers God's call to go to another country, or another culture to tell people about Jesus. There are lots of Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries serving God around the world.

There was a missionary in the Bible and his name was Paul. He and his coworker made plans to go to a particular country to tell people about Jesus. But God had other plans. Much to Paul's surprise, one night he dreamt about a man from a place called Antioch begging him to come to his town to teach them about Jesus. God used a dream to send the missionary Paul to where God wanted him to go. Even though that wasn't where Paul really wanted to go, he had a wonderful time while there.

And that is how it is with most missionaries. Buddy and Beverly Stott were missionaries for a lot of years. It took them a long time to decide to become missionaries. When they finally said "yes" to God about being missionaries they thought they wanted to go to Colombia, South America. Yep—Colombia would be a great place for them to go. But God had other plans for them. God sent missionaries Boyce and Beth Wallace to Colombia, and Buddy and Beverly to Japan. Surprise! The Stotts served God faithfully in Japan for 25 years and did a good job in helping to build God's kingdom in that place.

This is how it is with Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries. This is how it might be with you. We have our plans or ideas, and sometimes God has other plans. If we are open to listening to God, then we can have some pretty amazing adventures! And probably lots of wonderful surprises!

During the Pentecost season, we give special attention to the work of missionaries. On Pentecost Sunday we receive and celebrate a special offering to support the missionary work of the CP Church. The offering is called the Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering—in honor of two long-time missionaries couples: Boyce and Beth Wallace in Colombia, and Buddy and Beverly Stott in Japan. When we give to the Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering Fund, we are giving to the work of all Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries wherever they may be around the world—Here, There, and Everywhere!

To close, I want to give you a Missionary Prayer Card. Put this card in a place where you will see it every day, and remember to pray for the missionary on your card. Some of them have children your age. Some of them are serving far away from their home, with no family. Some of them are serving in pretty dangerous places—countries where the people in charge don't like Christians and would hurt them if they knew they were Christians. Be sure to pray daily for our missionaries, to listen for God in their lives, and to be bold in telling people about Jesus.

*Dear God, thank you for the missionaries all over the world who are telling people all about your love and grace. Keep them safe. Give them courage when it is dangerous; strength when it is difficult; and peace every day. Amen.*

### **Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon**

- Acts 16:6-10

**Benediction**

May the great love of God keep us, the teachings of Jesus fill us and the deep wisdom of the Holy Spirit surround us, one God, one endless love. **Amen.**