

A Liturgy for Our United Outreach Sunday
February 12, 2017
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Call to Worship

O God, we come before you bringing our all. We bring all our gifts and all our talents. We bring all our hopes and dreams as well as our sins and debts. We kneel our hearts and minds before you, O God, and praise you because only you are worthy of worship.

Call to Confession

The grace we receive is so undeserved yet we read in scripture that it is available. We only need confess and ask and we receive. Amazing!

Prayer of Confession (unison)

When we choose things over people, Lord forgive us.

When we choose greed over good, Lord forgive us.

When we choose scarcity over abundance, Lord forgive us.

When we choose judgment over justice, Lord forgive us.

When we choose anger over love, Lord forgive us.

When we choose the world over you, Lord forgive us.

Lord forgive us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Who can forgive these sins? Only Christ. Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in heaven for us. Friends, Christ prays for us. If he is with us, who can be against us? Thanks be to God our sins are forgiven!

Prayer for Illumination

We ask, O God, that you take the scales from our eyes and the human need from our hearts and help us to hear your word—the word that can instruct our paths and lead us to a life of abundance and peace. Help us, O God, to overcome any resistance to the Holy Spirit entering our hearts and truly commune with you. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Psalm 119:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-9—The Corinthians are chastised in chapter three because of their lack of working together and Paul reminds them that we are God's servants and need to work together.

- Matthew 5:21-37—The gospel reading in Matthew lends itself well to expanding beyond the “ought to’s” of our commandments to the abundance of the overflowing love and mercy we have been given.

Several of these scriptures could tie easily into sermons about giving and serving together through Our United Outreach. I would title the sermon: “Living an Abundant Life.”

Prayers of the People

O God of mercy and grace, we thank you for this day and this hour that we are blessed to be worshipping together. Remind us O God that though we are weak and lacking, because we are your children, our cup overflows. Remind us when we think we have little, we have it all. We ask for light in the darkness when we become like the world rather than your kingdom. We pray for your will to be done in the lives of each of us. But O God, we especially ask today for your blessings on those who are in need of physical, spiritual, emotional or financial healing. We ask for your special blessings on those whose names we speak either aloud or silently now (*pause for congregation to voice any names*). And we pray now as Christ taught us: (*pray together the Lord’s Prayer*).

Invitation to the Offering

Often the reason we do not give is because we do not have. But often it is not money we do not have to give. Often it is because we see our lives and our wealth as lacking. We fail to see the abundance of our lives in God’s kingdom. We fail to see that by giving we receive. We fail to open our lives to the overwhelming, unending possibilities that God has for us as individuals, as a church, and as a group of churches who call themselves Cumberland Presbyterians. A group of people who dare say, “Yes, together we can do it!” Whatever God has for us, we can accomplish. Let’s worship God with our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, for these and all the gifts given, we are thankful. We are thankful for all the ministries and missions that we work together to accomplish. In Christ’s name we give thanks, Amen.

Benediction

And now may the love of Almighty God,
the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus,
the joy of the Holy Spirit go with each of you.
And may your cup run over and spill abundance on everyone you meet. Amen.