

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Ordinary Time

SMALL GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE LITURGY

All songs are included in the back of the package.

The entire worship service will be streamed live starting at 9:30am at

<http://www.firsthamilton.ca/live>

Musicians: Deb Weibenga + Team

Worship Sourcebook Litanies - Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources

Our World Belongs to God Litanies - Reprinted by permission, Our World Belongs to God © 2008, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Grand Rapids MI. www.crnca.org.

WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 am

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

Prelude

GOD GATHERS US

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1-6 NIV

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**People: Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—**

Leader: who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,

**People: who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**

Leader: who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**People: The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.**

* **Song: Hymnal #571 Praise My Soul the King of Heaven** (Public Domain)

- * Greetings:
The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

GOD RENEWS US

Call to Confession:

When we gather to praise God,
we remember that we are people
who have preferred our wills to his.

Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God
and one another.

(Worship Sourcebook 2nd ed. 2.2.16 p. 85)

Prayer of Confession:

**People: Lord, we are like sheep, and we get lost.
We forget the needs of our neighbors and do not love you above all else.
We need a Savior, so we long for Jesus.
Come, fill our lives, Jesus. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon and Call to Holy Living: Psalm 103: 8-12

Leader: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

**People: He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;**

Leader: he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

**People: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;**

Leader: as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

- * **Song: Hymnal #672 O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God vs. 1-3** (Public Domain)
(Wiebengas to record)

ORDINATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor: Today we give thanks for the service that has been extended among us
by deacons Kim Schat and Jared Wilms; and by elders Brian Dijkema and Marge
Postuma. They have fulfilled their promises to obey the call of God and to do the
work of the church faithfully.

People: We are thankful for the work that God has accomplished through you!

Pastor: We pray that God will continue to bless you, filling you with joy and
strength.

**People: As you have been faithful in this calling, may you continue to be faithful
with the gifts that God has entrusted to you.**

Pastor: Today, we also give thanks that God's faithfulness continues from

generation to generation. We celebrate God's gift of new leadership in calling new elders: Edward Berkelaar, Darren Brouwer, Peter Bergstra and Willem de Ruijter; and in calling new deacons: Greg Doherty, Gary Hutten, and Deb Wiebenga.

People: **In the office bearers of the church, we see the love of Christ for His people.**

Pastor: As the Lord of the church, Jesus calls servant leaders, and by His Spirit equips them, so that the whole body of Christ might be built up.

People: **Elders tend to the ongoing discipleship and care of God's people, serving the church in Christ's name.**

Pastor: They provide leadership by ensuring our faithfulness in preaching and teaching, in the celebration of the sacraments, and in counsel and discipline. They are to set an example among us, as they promote fellowship and hospitality among believers, ensure good order in the church, and stimulate faithful witness through the way they live.

People: **Deacons take the lead in showing mercy. They serve Christ's body by discerning needs and opportunities to demonstrate the grace of Jesus Christ through stewardship, justice, compassion, and community ministry.**

Pastor: In Christ's name, they equip us to faithfully steward our resources, to resist injustice, and to extend the tangible presence of Christ. They lead us in paying attention to all people, especially to those who have been overlooked in the Church and those marginalized by the broader culture. By their example, they teach us to fervently desire that all people will flourish in the coming of God's kingdom.

People: **Together, Elders and Deacons are called to extend Christian encouragement as well as prophetic critique, in a spirit of Christian love and unity, that each of us might share more fully in the calling of Christ's body.**

* **Communal Profession of Faith: Apostles' Creed Hymnal #783A**

(Text: tr. from the 4th century Latin text, © 1988 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used with permission.)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,

the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

[The new elders and deacons are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary.]

Ordination Vows

Pastor: To express your acceptance of these offices, you are asked to stand, and here in the presence of God and his church, to answer the following questions:

1. Do you believe that in the call of this congregation God himself is calling you to these holy offices?
2. Do you believe that the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and life?
3. Do you affirm the creeds and confessions of this church, agreeing to have them form and govern the way you lead within this church?
4. Do you promise to carry out the work of your offices faithfully, in a way worthy of your calling and in submission to the government and discipline of the church?

How do you respond?

New Office-bearers: (Respond one at a time) "I do, God helping me."

The Charge to the Elder

Pastor: Peter, Willem, Edward and Darren, receive this charge from the congregation:

People: We charge you, as an elder, to love God's people, whom God has reconciled to himself in Christ Jesus. Be a model of faith; care for the needy; comfort the suffering; confront those who stray; devote yourselves to prayer; faithfully study the Word of God; and be completely mastered by the Lord

The Charge to the Deacons

Pastor: Greg, Deb and Gary, receive this charge from the congregation:

People: We charge you, as deacons, to inspire us to faithful stewardship; encourage us to serve others; be sensitive and compassionate to the needy; minister to everyone discerningly; live with integrity in your own life; devote yourselves to God's Word and prayer; and be completely mastered by the Lord.

The Laying on of Hands

[Current elders and deacons in the church are invited to come forward and surround the new office-bearers as we pray over them.]

Prayer of Blessing

*** The Charge to the Congregation:**

Pastor: As brothers and sisters in Christ and fellow servants in God's kingdom, we charge you, First Hamilton, to pray diligently for your leaders, to support them with gratitude, and to encourage them joyfully as they serve you. May we all grow

in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ so that together we might taste and see that God is good.

Song: *Christ Be All Around Me* (CCLI Song #7016414 - CCLI License #2024198) (***Wiebenga***)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession | Marge Postuma

Our Gracious and Almighty God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - we come before you as your beloved children with hearts full of praise. We praise you, our Creator, Redeemer and Comforter, for this privilege to come to you with our thanksgiving and intercessions. Thank you, Holy Spirit, that you help us to pray; thank you, Jesus, that you intercede with the Father on our behalf.

How thankful we are, Abba Father, that we are your redeemed and heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ in the coming of your Kingdom. Thank you for New Life which is ours already through the atoning work of our Saviour and for the assurance of eternal life in Christ our Lord. May the worship we bring this morning be a sacrifice of praise that is pleasing to you and that blesses all who have gathered today, whether here in this sanctuary or in our homes.

Lord, we confess that we often fail to trust you completely. During these months of pandemic, we have sometimes wondered where you are and what your purpose might be in these difficult times. Forgive us and help us to believe that you, our Sovereign Lord, are still very much in control. Help us to remember your faithfulness in the past and to go forward in the full assurance that you are with us and will never leave us. Fill us with your peace we pray.

This morning we give you special thanks for blessing our congregation with Godly leaders. We thank you for our pastors, Hayden and Ken, and we pray that you would continue to anoint them with your Holy Spirit as they minister among us. We thank you, too, for faithful Deacons and Elders - those who are completing their terms of office and those who, today, are beginning theirs. Fill them with wisdom and with your Holy Spirit as they serve and lead your church. May they be servant leaders, always humbly and faithfully doing the work to which you have called them. Help us, as members, to uphold all our elders and deacons in prayer, to honour them and to respect them. Equip each of us, Lord, young and old, leaders and members, to serve you and to love you and others with our heart, soul, mind and strength.

As schools and universities have opened once again, we pray for teachers and professors as well as all other staff. Give them strength, patience and creativity. Be with our children and young adults as they adjust to the challenges imposed by the "New Normal". Take away all fear and anxious thoughts and protect them from the threat of a 2nd wave of COVID 19. Keep us all safe and healthy and responsible.

We pray too for parents, those returning to jobs or working from home. Be with those struggling to make ends meet. And be with our elderly members who are isolated and lonely. We pray for [REDACTED] asking that they would experience your comforting nearness. We pray for [REDACTED] as he cares for her. Great Physician, you who are able to do far more than we could ask or imagine, we pray that you

would heal [REDACTED]. And we pray for others whose names are not mentioned and yet who are near and dear to us. Hear our prayers and intercession.

We give you thanks for those celebrating birthdays in this season. And we give you thanks for expectant moms; we pray for them and for the new lives which they are carrying. Thank you for the blessing of life! This morning we thank you for [REDACTED], and we pray that you will go with them as they travel to Sault Ste Marie to bring their foster child [REDACTED] to live with her Nana. We pray, Lord, for safekeeping in travelling and also that this child may thrive in her new home. We pray for all our foster parents and the children entrusted to their care. May these homes be filled with your love and compassion.

As we think of our world, we are overwhelmed by the suffering caused by natural disasters, fires and horrific storms, racial unrest, political wrangling and ongoing wars and conflicts. Our world is hurting! Lord, we need your help! Our hearts ache for persecuted Christians and for the Rohingya refugees desperately seeking asylum. We pray, Almighty God, that you would move the leaders of the nations to seek a resolution to this devastating tragedy.

Help us, as your church worldwide and as a congregation, to be instruments of peace wherever we are. May we not turn a blind eye to the sufferings of the poor and the marginalized. Move us to compassion! Forgive our hard heartedness!

We pray too for our sister congregation, the Hagersville Christian Reformed Church and for our True City partner, Grindstone Church. May these congregations be blessed and be a blessing in their communities.

Heavenly Father, as we now open your Word, we pray for a special anointing of your Spirit on Pastor Hayden as he brings your Word and on each of us as we listen. Move us to a deeper faith and to obedient service in the coming week. Fill us with deep gratitude for the love and grace which you daily pour into our lives.

To you be all the Glory, now and forever! In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Psalm: Psalm 103: 8-13

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Message: Judgement and Forgiveness

Prayer

* **Song: *Nothing But The Blood*** (CCLI Song #21332 - CCLI License #2024198) ***(Ian's team)***

GOD RECEIVES OUR OFFERINGS

Offering: First Offering: First Hamilton CRC Budget

Second Offering: Missionary Support

Ways to give:

- 1) **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):** (to get set up with PAR, please email office@firsthamilton.ca)
- 2) **CanadaHelps.org:**
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/first-hamilton-christian-reformed-church/>
(please put a note with designation details in the message area)
- 3) Or, by **mailing** a cheque to 195 Charlton Ave W. Hamilton, ON L8P 2C9

GOD SENDS US

* Blessing

* **Song: *Hymnal #227 - He Is Lord*** (CCLI Song #4201780 - CCLI License #2024198)
(Peter and Cheryl's recording)