



Roanoke District
Charge Conference Worship
Fall 2018

Call to Worship

Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.

For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

Confession and Pardon

Brothers and sisters, God not only desires our repentance, but longs to offer us forgiveness.

Therefore, cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you eternally.

Loving God, we confess that we do not always bring honor and glory to your name. We are rebellious and weak; we flee before your goodness. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us by the grace and mercy of Christ, that we may rise again in peace to love and serve your world.

Amen.

Sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God is resting on you, to restore, support, and strengthen you.

Therefore, be at peace in the One who forgives and loves you; rise up and give God thanks!

Scripture

1 Peter 4:7-11

New International Version

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As his perfect love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your Spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. **Amen.**

Work of the Charge Conference

Holy Conferencing and Action Items

Invitation to Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All of this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

In the name of the Giver of all gifts, Creator of word and water, Incarnate God, and life-giving Holy Spirit: In the waters of baptism, God's Holy Spirit comes to us and binds us to the body of Christ. Let us pray thanksgiving for this miracle that always makes wider and deeper the companionship we have with each other through Jesus, our Savior.

This earth, O God, is our home, built by your Word and your breath. Made alive by you, we come to know you and to know ourselves as your people. **We give you thanks.**

We drink your cooling waters. **We give you thanks.**

We see your rivers, lakes, and oceans lush with creatures large and small, food for the eye and for our nourishment. **We give you thanks.**

We bathe and are refreshed in waters you have made. **We give you thanks.**

Now gathered at baptismal water, a sign of your unending mercy, we praise you for the gift of your Son who in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension embraced the world, calling us to proclaim the good news that welcome all people. **Make us one in you.**

We praise you for the gift of prayer that allows us to hear you speak in our midst and gives us words when we are speechless with joy. **Make us one in you.**

We praise you for the waters that bring us to this day, to celebrate a new and renewed life in your name. **Make us one in you.**

Come, Holy Spirit, into your people, through the holy Word, by waters blessed. To you be all honor, glory, and gratitude, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reaffirmation of Faith

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.** The Holy Spirit works within you that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Charge and Benediction

God has heard you and given heed to your prayers. Therefore, go in peace to serve Christ, and always be eager to do what is good.

May God, who creates, redeems, and sustains, keep you steadfast in faith, buoyant in hope, and abounding in love. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Let God's people say, **Amen!**

As you depart to serve, share the peace of Christ with one another. You are welcome to touch the baptismal water in remembrance. The pastors are available to anoint you for service in Christ's name.

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