



Roanoke District
Charge Conference Worship
Fall 2019

Call to Worship

On this day, we wait for God:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end.

In the midst of change and uncertainty, we wait for God:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end;

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness, O God!

Confession and Pardon

Even before we admit our sin, God promises to hear us with mercy. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

O God, Creator of the universe, we imagine we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect in this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came. Do not abandon us to our foolishness. In judgement, illumine our darkness. In mercy, bear us home—until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored...

(silent confession)

Beloved of God, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. It cannot be contained, but must be poured out. Nothing you have done, nothing you will ever do is enough to separate you from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ, I declare in the name of the risen Christ that our sin is forgiven and our lives are made new.

Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

Common English Bible

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

Prayer

God of holy love, of power, and truth, help us to neither bow to fear, nor be silenced by chaos. Instead, move us resolutely toward your world in need; until we share the mercy we have discovered in your name. **Amen.**

Work of the Charge Conference

Holy Conferencing and Action Items

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, it is good, and it is joyful to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle. When there was only darkness, you made light. When we cried out to you from captivity, you claimed us as your own. When we forgot our love for you, you did not forget us, sending your prophets to turn us around and renewing your promises with a bow in the sky, the parting of the sea, your own Son. And so we praise you, tuning our voices to the angles' songs, joining all those who sing on earth and in heaven:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you for Jesus—for his teaching and healing, his challenging and feeding, his living and dying and rising, that we might be raised with him and all the world made new. We thank you that on the night before he died he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying, take, eat—my body broken for you. Thank you for the way he took the cup, the new covenant sealed in his blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you eat and drink, he said, do it in remembrance of me. With thanksgiving we take this bread and wine, gifts of the good earth, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice dedicated to your service.

Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on your people gathered here and on these gifts—bread and wine of earth, to body and blood of heaven; our frail flesh and blood to your holy people, that we might be Christ's body to your world. For this world we now pray: end all war, mend your wounded earth, heal those who suffer, comfort those who mourn, and infuse us with your peace that is rooted in what is just. Through the power of your Holy Spirit united us with Christ and with one another as we work and wait in hope, confident in that day when Christ will come and make all things well and we will feast together at his heavenly table. All Glory and honor are yours, Holy God, through Christ, and in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer ~ Breaking the Bread ~ Giving the Bread and Cup

Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the love of God dwell in your heart; may the grace of Christ uphold you in faith; may the Holy Spirit equip you for ministry; until Christ's kingdom, already in view, comes in fullness among us. Let God's people say, **Amen!**

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