



Riverside Congregational
Church

November 14, 2021

Call to Worship

(1 Samuel 1 & 2)

One: Come worship the Lord who is in our midst today.

Many: There is no Holy One like our God.

One: Like Hannah of old, we raise our voices to praise the Lord of strength.

Many: There is no Rock like our God.

Call to Worship

One: We prepare to listen and learn with open hearts and open minds.

Many: There is no Source of knowledge like our God.

One: We trust that righteousness will come on the heels of God's judgment.

Many: There is no Justice like our God.

Call to Worship

One: May the Son of our God lead us into faith.

Many: There is no Guide like our God.

Come worship the Lord who is in our midst today.

Prayer of Invocation

(1 Samuel 1, Hebrews 10)

Holy One, there is no God like you.

In praise and thanksgiving, we come before you ready to learn of your power, ready to follow your path for our lives.

Through days of jubilation as well as dejection, help us realize your influence in the world.

We ask simply for ears to hear, eyes to see, and minds to comprehend the blessings you bestow. Amen.

“Here I Am, Lord” (#559)

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?



“Here I Am, Lord” (#559)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night

I will go, Lord, if you lead me

I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain

I have borne my people's pain

I have wept for love of them

They turn away



“Here I Am, Lord” (#559)

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
Who will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart



“Here I Am, Lord” (#559)

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?



“Here I Am, Lord” (#559)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night

I will go, Lord, if you lead me

I will hold your people in my heart



Prayer of Confession

(1 Samuel 1, Hebrews 10, Mark 13)

Rock of Salvation,

you give children to the barren and strength to the feeble;
you exalt the poor and lift up the needy.

We praise your holy name from morning to night,
yet we build walls that separate us: from you, from one
another, from the world, even from ourselves.

We place stumbling blocks in the way of goodness and truth.
We are led astray by promises of earthly treasure.

Prayer of Confession

We confess our fallibility and seek solace in the mother of our joy.

Teach us to pray and praise without pause, confessing hope ceaselessly.

Guide us in our efforts to encourage one another, to work together for good in the world, and to prepare for the day of the Lord.

Let us pray. *(Time for personal reflection and confession)*

Prayer of Confession

All:

Salvation belongs to you, O God. Forgive us our sin. Renew us, refresh us and help us rebuild our lives so that they are reflections of your love for all people. We pray in the name of the Lamb that was slain. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Christ offers peace to all who will accept it. Share the love of God and encourage one another with hope as you greet one another in faith:

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Many And also with you!

Mark 13: 1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?”

Mark 13: 1-8

Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.



Sermon:

“The stones that weigh on us”

Rev. Bob Nolan

“Let There Be Peace On Earth” (#614)

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator
Children all are we.
Let me walk with each other
In perfect harmony.



“Let There Be Peace On Earth” (#614)

Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.





Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory;
Forever and ever. Amen!

Call To Offering

Today, O Lord, we offer you our sacrifice of time, energy, and love, knowing full well they are mere tokens of the awesome faith you inspire within us.

Accept these gifts, that they may continue the good work in Christ — in our church, in our community, and in the world.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

“Give Thanks” (#359)

Give thanks, with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son
And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”
let the poor say, “I am rich,”
because of what the Lord had done for us
Give thanks!



Dedication

Leader: Living God, we are your people, we carry your presence. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission in the world. Multiply our effort to meet every need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen!**

“For the Healing of the Nations” (#621)

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.



“For the Healing of the Nations” (#621)

Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.



“For the Healing of the Nations” (#621)

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life’s brief span.



“For the Healing of the Nations” (#621)

You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind.
For our growing in your likeness,
bring the life of Christ to mind
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.





Benediction

God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again

O---God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again