

**Order for Worship for 9th Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2020**

Prelude

"Goldberg Variations" (excerpt)

J.S. Bach/Koshoeva

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.

Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in God's graciousness.

God is always with us, there is nothing that can keep us apart.

Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.

We rejoice with God who is with us always.

Prayer of the Day

Hymn # 386

"Come, Worship God"

Perry/Paris Antiphoner

Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.

Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains;
held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
God above all gods, who gave us our birth.

We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;
you are our Maker, and to you we pray.
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;
great is the one whom we worship this day!

Now let us listen, for you speak among us;
open our hearts to receive what you say.
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you search our hearts and see the places where they are hardened and resistant to your will. In this time of much upheaval and pain, we frequently turn away from those in need, seeking our own security instead of the well-being of all creation. We let petty differences separate us from one another. We allow self-interest to overwhelm your commandment to love our neighbors. We fail to see your image evident in every person. Forgive us, we pray, and in your mercy redirect us so that we can once again walk in your ways. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer for Illumination

Readings from Holy Scripture

Acts 15:1-35

Sermon

“Family Feuds in the Bible, Part IV: The Council in Jerusalem”

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again 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.

Hymn # 300

“We Are One in the Spirit”

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord (2 x)
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored:
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand (2 x)
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side (2 x)
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory

“Goldberg Variations” (excerpt)

J.S. Bach/Koshoeva

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Lord, we look in awe at the extent of your compassion, the unbounded care you give to all the earth. We rejoice that when we give you whatever we have, you accept it, give God thanks for it, expand its power to provide and allow us to witness the miracles of mercy

that ensue as a result. We pray that you would take these very offerings and do with them what you did in that desolate place so long ago, feed people, nurture people, grant relief and give those who are hurting hope and assurance that they are seen and beloved. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of 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.

Holy God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name... Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners... Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ. As you raised our Lord from death and call us with him from death to life, we give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Send us out in the power of the Spirit...until we feast with him in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Charge and Blessing

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us;

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Postlude

"Goldberg Variations" (excerpt)

J.S. Bach/Koshoeva

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*Today's special music was performed by a colleague of Amy Glennon Watt, Dr. Kairy Koshoeva, who has previously performed a concert in our sanctuary. Ms. Koshoeva is a native of Russia, and has performed around the world, earning numerous awards and competitions. We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Koshoeva, and to Aimee and Hayden Clark, Louise Best, Pam Wynne and Danielle Allison, and John Loetscher for helping with the service.*

*Today's Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession were written by Rev. Jill Duffield, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook for August 2, 2020.*

Notes on today's hymns from Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (2013):

*"Come, Worship God" is based on Psalm 95, and is set to a 17<sup>th</sup> century tune called the Paris "Antiphoner." It has often been used as an opening canticle in the worship of Western Christianity. John Calvin found in Psalm 95 two reasons to praise God: for sustaining the created world and for adopting the church into a gracious relationship.*

*"They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love" was written in the 1960s by a parish priest from Chicago who was very involved in the Civil Rights movement. He needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.*

*Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.*