

**PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA STAFF-LED WORSHIP
MAY 2021**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nellie Howard and Rocky Poole

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: We gather to worship the sovereign God, who created heaven and earth;

Many: the God who continues to do new things in the midst of God's people.

One: Let us come before God with open hearts and minds,

Many: trusting in the transforming power of the Lord our God.

HYMN "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART

Maureen Wright
Sharon Curnutte, pianist

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

2 What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Amy Robinson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sarah Specht

Let us pray:

Renewer of life:

You call us to embrace the new, but we prefer the old.

You call us to beware resting at ease,

but we clutch closely to the coziness of familiar places.

You invite us to join you as you do new things;

we'd prefer to keep a safe distance from the upheaval of it all.

You seek to renew us in your image;

we do all we can to cling to our old ways of life.

We confess that we oppose your work in us;

we resist being conformed to your will.

Loving God, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us for clutching tightly
when you would have us let go.**

Stir us by your Spirit,

who makes all things new,

for the sake of your Son,

our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Amy Robinson

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ends.
When we call out to God, God answers.

**Many: God saves us with a strong and outstretched hand.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
and helped to live in grace. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mark Miller

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21
Romans 12:1-2

Ed Thompson

CHILDREN'S TIME

Barbara Chalfant

SERMON

Ed Thompson

HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

tune: HYFRYDOL

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Susan Sharp Campbell

OFFERING

Call for the Offering
Offertory
Prayer of Dedication

Rocky Poole
Susan Sharp Campbell
Rocky Poole

HYMN

Our God, We Sing and Celebrate

tune: ELLACOMBE

Our God, we sing and celebrate! Your grace to us is clear!
For we recall your faithful love for all your people here.
We've worked together, yet we know it's not the things we've done,
But you, who give us life and hope in sending us your Son.

Lord Jesus, in this broken world, you teach us how to heal,
And in a world where pride abounds, you call your church to kneel.
Amid the hate, we're called to love; amid the fear, to pray.
You call us to live differently; transform us every day!

You give us gifts to be your church; we follow as you call.
Here some are teachers, others preach, to speak your truth to all.

Some reach to help the sick and poor, while some are called to lead;
Yet by your Spirit, we are one, in word, in prayer, in deed!

How easy to look back and see your graceful, constant care,
And yet we're called to look ahead, to grow, to serve, to dare!
What is your will in this new day? God, help us pray and search,
For as we seek to walk with you, we are your faithful church.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Ed Thompson

A special thank you to pianist Sharon Curnutte, choir director emeritus at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, for accompanying Maureen Wright on the hymns.

Resources:

- The Call to Confession and Assurance of Pardon are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, volume 2. Copyright 2014.
- The Prayer of Confession is from *Call to Worship, volume 36*, Office of Theology and Worship, ©2002 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Geneva Press.
- The Prayer for Illumination is reprinted by permission from Book of Common Worship, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press.
- The Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication are from *Call to Worship, volume 48*, © 2014 Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).