

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: We gather as God's beloved children –

All: *However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.*

Pastor: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community

All: *So, this becomes a place where all are welcome.*

Pastor: We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with other

All: *Let us worship God.*

HYMN

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2 Know that there is one God, in - deed, who
3 En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with
4 Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose

out your faith with cheer - ful voice; De - light in God whose
fash - ions us with - out our aid, Who claims us, gives us
joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, Whose truth at all times

praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - jice.
all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

CALL TO CONFESSION²

Pastor: Each week as a community we set aside time to admit our sin. For some, sin is hurting someone else. For others, sin is creating a rift between people. Sin may be our self-induced separation from God. No matter how we understand sin, let us offer to God what lies heavily in our hearts this day, first in silent prayer.

¹ Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

² Ibid.

SILENT PRAYER

COMMUNAL PRAYER of CONFESSION

*All: O Holy God, we know we have fallen short.
We turn our backs when we could embrace.
We remain silent when we could speak.
We speak when we could listen.
We close the door when we could fling it wide open.
We judge when we could seek understanding.
We cling when we could give.
Forgive us, O God, for being so very human at times, and help us to continue to grow into the
people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, hear the Good News: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Genesis 11:1-9

SERMON STUDY

SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 11:27-31

SERMON STUDY

SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 15:1-21

SERMON STUDY

PASTORAL PRAYER³ & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Still-Speaking God, you encourage us not to be afraid of what the future holds, not to worry about tomorrow, but you know how difficult we find it to bear your words. For we worry about so many things: our families, our friends, our circumstances; some worries are big, most worries are small. We come before you this day with both big and tiny fears, and with confidence, knowing we can lay them all at your feet.

Nurturing God, we bring our big worries about health and happiness and security for ourselves and for our loved ones. We bring big worries about the world we live in and its future existence as we continue to fail to address so many ecological problems. We bring big worries about the way people in our world are treated as less than human - exploited, tortured, helpless and abused.

Compassionate God, we know that you are concerned with every aspect of our lives, so we also bring the little things that concern us, the worries which keep us awake at night, the worries which only you know.

Creator God, reach out to all those for whom the future brings fears and uncertainties. Assure them that you are with them, even when that future seems dark, and circumstances feel like they are spiraling out of control. Remind them that you are able to transform even the bleakest of situations, grant healing and wholeness, and initiate new beginnings.

Calling God, we make our prayers in faith, for we know that your Spirit is at work in our world making all things new. We pray through Christ, who taught us also to pray, saying:

³ Adapted by Pastor Laura. The original was written by Rev. Anne Patton and posted on the Church of Scotland's *Starters for Sunday* website. (<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION⁴

Liturgist: And now - not because we have to - but because we are grateful, let us return to God what is ours to share. Let us joyfully offer our time, our talent, financial resources, and commitment.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God, thank you! Thank you. THANK YOU - for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless the offerings we commit to giving today, that they might be used to further your kingdom, here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we say and do. Amen.

HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

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BENEDICTION

Pastor: God calls us to step out in faith,
to follow where God leads
even if what God calls us to do seems impossible.

So, let's go from this time of worship with courage,
trusting in God's presence and power,
and eager to do God's will.

And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and within you,
now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

⁴ By Liturgylink: Offering and Dedication. Submitted by Rev. Laura Becker, Northminster Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN. April 2, 2011.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing 671

1. Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for thy gos - pel's

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of thy sal - va - tion

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound; ev - er faith - ful,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth system.