

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come; let us worship God who provides for us.

**Congregation: This week has been filled with joys and sorrows.
We come into worship with burdens on our hearts.**

Pastor: Come then, let us feel God's mercy.

**Congregation: Even though we grumble and complain, God hears our cries.
God forgives and heals our wounded souls.**

Pastor: Come beloved children of God and celebrate God's steadfast faithfulness.

**Congregation: God has helped us in the past.
We come into worship with our spirits open to receive God's generous compassion
and love.**

Pastor: Come, now is the time to worship.

Congregation: Now is the time of healing, restoration, and hope.

HYMN

Come, now is the Time to Worship

End of Bulletin

PRAAYER OF CONFESSION

All: *God of patience, we are weary; we complain and question. We put you to the test. Our mouths say, "YES!" but our actions say, "NO!" (Pause for silent confession) When we wander off your path, when we fail to follow through on our good intentions, when we give our attention to trivial things, when we give ourselves over to worldly ways - gently call us back. (Pause for silent confession) Empty our hearts of anger and pride. Empty our souls of greed and selfishness. Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and mistrust. (Pause for silent confession) As you, O God, poured out your very self through your beloved Son, pour your Spirit into our hearts today. Forgive us for our sin and wrongdoing, reclaim and restore us with your love. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends in Christ, hear the Good News: God knows our hearts and our spirits. God sees our struggles and forgives our weakness. Know that it is in God's healing love that you live and move and have your being.

All: *We rejoice, for God is always with us. Amen!*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Following Instructions

Exodus 17:1-7

¹The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" ³But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

EPISTLE READING*Work out your own salvation***Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL READING*Doing the Will of the Father***Matthew 21:23-32**

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' ²⁹ 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Bair

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 INVITATION

Liturgist: Hear this invitation as recorded in the Book of Hebrews: "Do good! Share what you have! For such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Let us take a moment to reflect on what we have to give to God – of our time, talent, and financial resources. Let us take a moment to reflect on God's pleasure in our sacrifice. (Moment of silent reflection) Will you please join me in dedicating our tithes and offerings using the Offertory Prayer as printed in our bulletins?

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: *God of all grace and goodness, throughout the ages you have looked after the needs of your children; we thank you for your mercy. Bless the words we speak, that they may proclaim your greatness. Look with favor upon these financial offerings, as well as the offering of our time and talent. Through us, and our offerings, may others come to know your tender love and mercy. Amen.*

HYMN

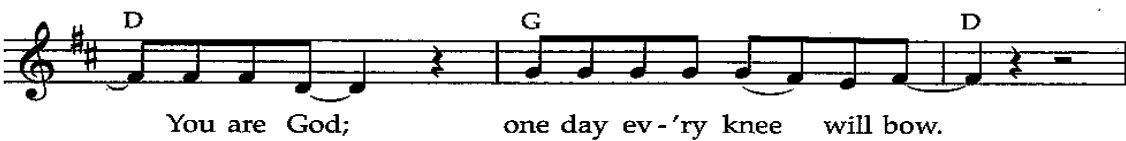
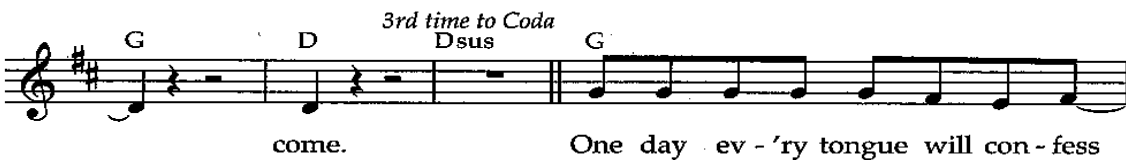
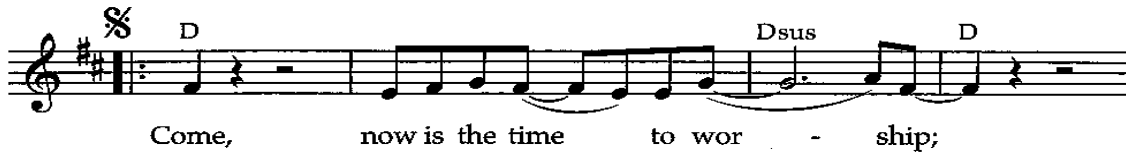
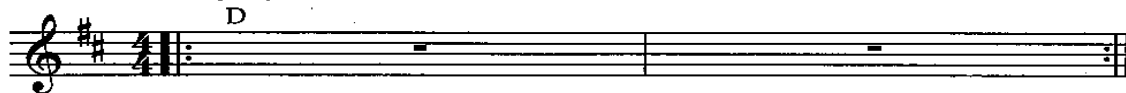
Trust and Obey

Last page of Bulletin

BENEDICTION (Based on Philippians 2)

Pastor: Go bravely and boldly into this world of confusion and pain.
Offer God's healing words of love and forgiveness.
Know the power of mercy and grace in your life and use those wonderful gifts to serve God, by serving people – all people.
God's beloved people, go in peace.

All: *Amen!*

♩=110 *Steadily in four*

F C7 F C C7 F

1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2 Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
 3 But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
 4 Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

Bb F C F C7 F C C7

glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

F Bb F/C C7 F C F

Refrain

still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 go - nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

D Gm C7 F/C C7 F F/A Bb6 F/C C7 F

no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.