

GOD THE CREATOR LITURGY

- by John VanOene

 **WorldRenew**
LIVING JUSTICE • WORKING PEACE • GROWING HOPE



Christian Reformed Church
**Worship
Ministries**



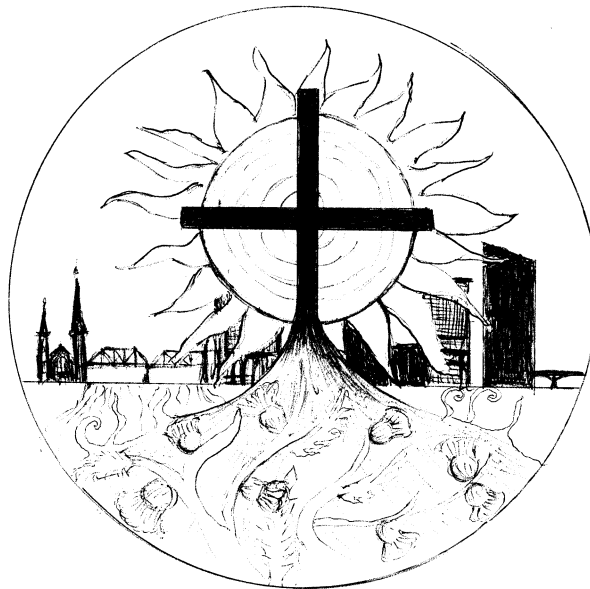
**CLIMATE
WITNESS
PROJECT**

CALVIN INSTITUTE OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

OSJ

Office of Social Justice

September 22, 2019
Church of the Servant CRC
Trinity Season



*For worship today, follow the worship order in this printed liturgy.
Some songs may be sung from the red Lift Up Your Hearts. This
liturgy emphasizes the work of God as the Creator of the universe.*

Gathering

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

Leader: We have been appointed by God to give voice to the constant praise of every creature under heaven.

People: Let us raise a song of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Gathering Hymn

People sing: Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator abundantly raise,
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the oceans proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

Greeting (Psalm 104)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: O Lord, how bountiful are your works!

People: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Leader: Glory to God forever. May God find joy in all creatures, both great and small.

People: I shall sing to the Lord and make music for my God as long as I live.

Hymn of Praise (Psalm 104)

People sing: “O Worship the King” *Lift Up Your Hearts 2*

(Please be seated)

Confession and Assurance

Leader: Made in God’s image, we are called to be grateful caretakers of God’s creation, tending it with love and care. But we have rebelled against our Maker. We have lived as if the creation belongs to us, becoming estranged from God, from the creation, and from one another. Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

People: Creator God, you made us rulers in your creation, placing its care and wellbeing in our hands. But we have betrayed your trust. Desiring control, we recklessly exploit its resources, and make idols of the things we produce from it. In your great love, forgive us, O God, and remake us in the image of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time for silent confession.


We remember our baptism as the water is poured.

Leader: People of God, put your faith in Jesus Christ. He is the true image of the invisible God. Through his death on the cross he paid for our sins. By his resurrection he restored us to our human dignity. In his ascension he promises a new creation. Thanks be to God!

(Please rise in body or in spirit)


Gloria (Peru)

First time Leader, second time All

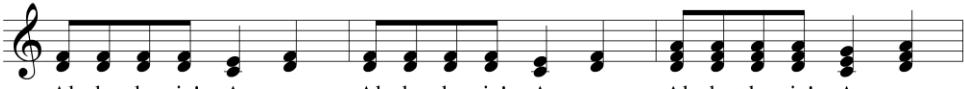


Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

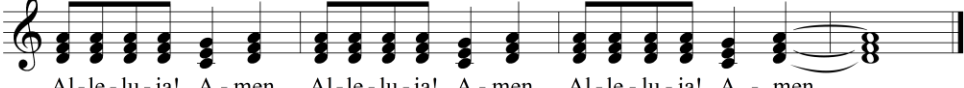
First time Leader, second time All *Leader* *People*



To God be glo-ry for-ev - er! Al-le-lu-ia! A - men. Al-le-lu-ia! A - men.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.



Al-le-lu-ia! A - men. Al-le-lu-ia! A - men. Al-le-lu-ia! A - men.

Peace

Leader: God has reconciled all things in heaven and on earth by making peace through the blood of the cross of Jesus Christ. Let us turn to one another and offer a sign of peace.

Word

(Please be seated)

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

People: Gracious God, as we open the scriptures today, speak your Word to us, that we may be recreated in your Son, Jesus Christ. In his life, may we have new life; in his light, may we see light. Amen.

People sing:



Lis-ten to the word which God has spo-ken; lis-ten to the One who is
close at hand; lis-ten to the voice be-hind cre-a-tion;
lis-ten e-ven if you don't un-der-stand.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

Leader: ¹⁸My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. ¹⁹Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land:

People: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?”

Leader: “Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”

People: ²⁰“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

Leader: ²¹For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. ²²Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

¹O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Leader: ¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children 2½ years old through second grade are invited to come forward.

Leader: People of God, what is our prayer for these children?

People: May the Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

People: May the Word of the Lord grow in your hearts.

Children: Thanks be to God!

People: Go in peace.

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Lectionary Psalm 79

People sing: “Remember Not, O God” *Lift Up Your Hearts* 632

(Please be seated)

Sermon

“Is There a Sickness Beyond Healing?” Rev. Karen Campbell

followed by a moment of silence

Hymn of Response

People sing:

Lis-ten to the word which God has spo-ken; lis-ten to the One who is
close at hand; lis - ten to the voice be - hind cre - a - tion;
lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

For the calling of stay-at-home parents -

Trumpets: for the time to volunteer in the community and for the model of parental love provided by our heavenly Father

Tears: for the lack of intellectual stimulation and intrinsically rewarding tasks

Ashes: for the times we forget that our children are image bearers of God and are individuals with their own personalities, not extensions of their parents. For the times we worry more about other people's opinions of our children than about nurturing their souls

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us together affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

People: We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things, visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, and who spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Table

Preparing the Table

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, all that we have has been given to us by our Creator and belongs to God. Let us come with joy to share what God has entrusted to us, offering the gifts of our life and labor for the healing and flourishing of all creation.

*People come forward and place their offerings in the baskets at the communion table.
A church member brings forward the bread and wine for the communion.*

People sing:



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to ___ God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is ___ done.



For his gifts to eve - ry na - tion, thanks be to ___ God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is ___ done.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -



sleep - ing, Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to ___ God.
spair - ing, In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is ___ done.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving...

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is fitting for us to give thanks. It is right and fitting, our joy and our salvation,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty,
everlasting God, through Christ our Lord.

...to God the Father

Leader: Creator God, by your power and love all things came to be: the vast expanse of
space with its swirling galaxies, blazing stars, spinning planets, and this teeming
earth, our island home. From these primal elements you brought forth the human
race, made in your image and appointed as stewards of the earth. Though we
betrayed your trust and turned against you, still you called us, again and again, to

return, and revealed your righteous Law. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your own Son, born of a woman, to reconcile us to you by his own blood and restore us to our true humanity.

Therefore, giving voice to all your creatures with the whole church in heaven and on earth, we proclaim your glory, God most holy, and sing with joy:

People sing:

"Ho-ly, ho-ly, you are ho-ly, — ev-ery an-gel voice pro-claims.

"All the earth re-flects your glo-ry, — ev-ery tongue sings out your praise!"

(Please be seated)

...for the work of Jesus Christ

Leader: We give thanks to God that our Savior Jesus Christ, through whom and for whom all things were made, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice until his coming again. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

People: We who are many are one body for we all share the same loaf.

Leader: After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

People: The cup which we all share is our fellowship in the blood of Christ.

Leader: Remembering God's faithfulness to us and to all of creation through Jesus Christ, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have received this bread and wine: fruit of the earth and work of human hands. By your Holy Spirit, may it become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: For by him and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit we offer you this, our sacrifice of praise, Almighty Father, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: And now as our Savior taught us we are bold to pray:

People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

The Invitation to the Table

Leader: Congregation in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared this table for all who love and trust in him for their salvation. Anyone baptized in the name of the Triune God is now invited to come with gladness to this holy meal. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Process forward using the center aisles, joining the communion circle at the front of the church. Anyone baptized in the name of the Triune God is invited to participate in this holy meal. If you are not baptized and would like to learn more about becoming baptized, you are invited to speak with a staff member or an elder after the service. Children may join their parents in the communion circle; for a spoken blessing, children should stand in front of their parents.

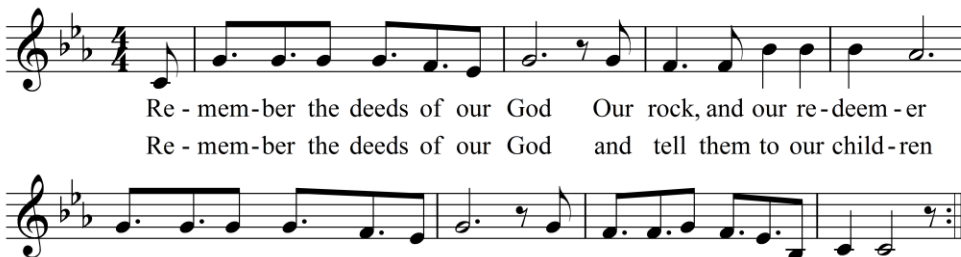
The bread and cup are passed around the circle. When you receive the bread, break a small piece and pass it along to the next person saying, "the body of Christ for you." Then dip the bread into the cup and pass it to the next person with the words, "the blood of Christ poured out for you." A server will come around the circle with gluten-free bread for those with allergies. Wine will be served in the first 3 circles. Grape juice will be served in all subsequent circles. After everyone in the circle has received the elements, recess down the outside aisles.

Someone is available to pray with you on either side of the sanctuary.

"Remember the Deeds of Our God"

(Psalm 78; winner of the 2015 New Psalm Contest)

People sing:



Re - mem - ber the deeds of our God Our rock, and our re - deem - er
Re - mem - ber the deeds of our God and tell them to our child - ren

Drink from his pierced, wound - ed side the wa - ters of our sal - va - tion
He who has fed us be - fore will feed us a - gain at his ta - ble.

Leader sings: He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
And made the waters stand like a heap.
In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
And all night long with a fiery light.
He split rocks open in the wilderness
And gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
He made streams come out of the rock,
And caused waters to flow down like rivers. *Refrain*

Yet he commanded skies above,
And opened the doors of heaven;
He rained down on them manna to eat,
And gave them the grain of heaven.
Mortals ate of the bread of angels;
He sent them food in abundance.
They ate and were well filled,
For he gave them what they craved.
They remembered that God was their rock,
The most high God, their redeemer. *Refrain*

“Miren qué Bueno / Oh, Look and Wonder” (Argentina) *Lift Up Your Hearts* 260



¡Mi - ren qué bue - no, qué bue - no es!
Oh, look and won - der how good it is!



1. How good it is when broth - ers dwell in peace with one an - oth - er:
2. How good it is when sis - ters dwell in peace with one an - oth - er:
3. How good it is when all earth's peo - ple dwell in peace to - geth - er:



it is like pre - cious oil when run - ning fresh on Aa - ron's beard.
fresh like the morn - ing dew that falls on Zi - on's ho - ly hill.
there is where God will pour the bless - ing, life for - ev - er - more.

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”



1. O splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from
2. The Fa - ther sends his Son, our Lord, to
3. The dawn be - gins to speed her way, let
4. Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, shower
5. O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with
6. All praise to God the Fa - ther be, all



light e - ter - nal bring - ing light; thou
 be his bright and shin - ing Word; come,
 the true Dawn him - self dis - play, the
 down your ra - diance from a - bove, and
 thoughts as clear as morn - ing's ray, with
 praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whom



Light of Life, light's liv - ing spring, true
 Lord, ride out your glea - ming course, and
 Son with God the Fa - ther one, and
 shed the Ho - ly Spi - rit's ray on
 faith like noon - tide shin - ing bright, our
 with the Spi - rit we a - dore for -



Day, all days il - lum - in - ing.
 be our Dawn, our light's true source.
 God the Fa - ther in the Son.
 all we think or do to - day.
 souls un - sha - dowed by the night.
 ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

“In God Alone” *Lift Up Your Hearts* 433

The first system of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, a half note A, and a quarter note B. The bass staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, a half note A, and a quarter note B. The lyrics are: In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in

The second system of music continues in G major and 4/4 time. The treble staff has a quarter note G, a half note A, and a quarter note B. The bass staff has a quarter note G, a half note A, and a quarter note B. The lyrics are: God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my

The third system of music continues in G major and 4/4 time. The treble staff has a quarter note G, a half note A, and a quarter note B. The bass staff has a quarter note G, a half note A, and a quarter note B. The lyrics are: soul can find its rest, find its rest — and peace.

“The Seeds of the Kingdom”



1. Je - sus scat - ters the seeds of his king - dom; far and
2. Like the small - est of seeds in the win - ter is the
3. He has plant - ed the seeds of his king - dom in the
4. Through the cit - y of God flows a riv - er. From the



wide he an-nounc - es new birth: "I, the Lord of cre - a
king - dom of God as it's sown; but the pow - ers of hell
hearts of the poor and the weak. He de - clares to the cap
throne of the Lamb wa - ters pour. And be - hold: on its banks



- tion am ma - king new eve - ry inch of the groan - ing earth."
shall a - gainst it fail when the king - dom of God is grown.
- tives, "I bring good news: you shall be might - y oaks of strength."
grows the Tree of Life, where the na - tions are healed and re - stored!



Though we wait for the Lord of the har-vest and we long for our King to ap-pear;



e - ven now in our hearts by the Spir-it's power the king-dom of God is near.

Leader: Almighty and everliving God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood.

People: Send us now into your creation as people renewed in your image, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.

Sending

Benediction

Leader: The blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song

People sing: Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator abundantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are over us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

Please be seated for brief announcements.

“Let All Things Now Living” text: Katherine K. Davis; music: Welsh melody

“Glory to God” Text: traditional, from Luke 2:14; music: Peruvian traditional

“Listen to the Word” Canadian, source unknown, transcribed by John L. Bell ©2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc. arr. Larry Figueroa

“For the Fruit of All Creation” Text: Fred Pratt Green ©1970 Hope Publishing Company; music: Welsh melody

“Holy, Holy, You Are Holy” Rwanda, para. and arr. Greg Scheer ©2008

“Remember the Deeds of Our God” (*Winner of the 2015 New Psalm Contest*) Steven Rodriguez ©2015

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright” Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4th c. music: *Trier manuscript*, adapt. Michael Praetorius, arr. Greg Scheer ©2004

“The Seeds of the Kingdom” Wendell Kimbrough ©2014

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Music planned and led at the piano by Larry Figueroa. Liturgist: Eve Clayton, Scripture Readers: Henry Jackson, Jeff Jackson, and Jane Vroon, Intercessory Prayer: John Witvliet

The cover art is by Karen Campbell as an expression of the sermon series on Jeremiah: “A Light in the City.”