

ORDER OF WORSHIP – March 27, 2022 US Congregations

Announcements and the Passing of the Peace may be placed according to the custom of the congregation. Hymn numbers are given for Glory to God (GtG) and The Presbyterian Hymnal (PH)

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 95)

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

*All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and praise God with music and song.*

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy (GtG # 1; PH # 138)

Opening Prayer

Leader: Lord, our God, we trust your promise
to be among us as we gather.
We come in the name of Christ,
drawn by your Spirit,
eager to hear your Word.
Fill our hearts with your Spirit
and prepare us for faithful service.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: We cannot come before God
unless we are first honest with ourselves
about who we are,
about the mistakes we make,
and about how well or poorly we care for others.
In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

*All: Dear Lord, life ambushes us; this broken world sidetracks and distracts us;
it is full of temptations and terrors, and we fall at times,
frequently, daily, sometimes hour by hour.
We are hungry for satisfaction, for a quick fix, for an escape.
Have mercy on us, O God, according to your extraordinary kindness and compassion.
We offer you all that we are: our mistakes, our falling short, our regrets,
our strengths and weaknesses, disasters and triumphs;
our moments of following you, and our moments of meandering.
Please deal with our wrongdoing, heal the past and lift the guilt.
You offer forgiveness, hope, and a fresh start.
Because of you, because of your love, and because of all you have done,
we thank you – in the name of your compassionate and courageous Son. Amen.*

(A time of silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news!
Know that in Jesus,
God embraces you, forgives you,

and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Response: Precious Lord, Take My Hand, verse 1 (GtG # 834); PH # 404)

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Prepare our hearts, O God,
to hear your Word
and obey your will.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Scripture reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Hymn: New Songs of Celebration Render (GtG #371; PH #218)

Scripture reading Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon

Hymn: Help Us Accept Each Other (GtG #754; PH #358)

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People (Thanksgiving and Intercessions)

Holy and Gracious God
You, the one of prodigal grace
We give you thanks for the gift of life
and for the blessings of this life,
for family and friends and
love abundant.

Lead us through the trials
the suffering and sorrow
the challenges and struggles
the tired time, despair and bleak places,
back to you, and
love abundant.

Be with those who weep
or cannot sleep
who have no peace
who seek release
and comfort them with
love abundant.

Fill us with hope,

sustained in your mercy,
with patience and stamina
upheld by your Holy Spirit
in your prodigal grace.

We give you thanks for partnership
between the Czech and American churches.
Renew our contacts after this pandemic time.
Give us inspiration for future cooperation.
We pray for reconciliation for the deeply
divided societies in both our countries.

Transform us and all our broken ways,
transform us that we can be made whole
And in wholeness may we be
the hands and heart of Christ. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision (GtG #450; PH #339)

[Optional: **Scripture reading** Isaiah 49:15-16]

Blessing and Charge

[Alternate placement: **Hymn:** Help Us Accept Each Other]