



## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Book of Common Worship (1993), of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Kenneth Randolph Taylor

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Hear the Good News, Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. Beloved, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen!

\* **GLORIA PATRI** **Blue Hymnal # 579**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw>

\* **SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Peace be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: As God's forgiven people, share the peace of Christ with each other (from your seat please).

## **Hear the Word of God**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Come, Spirit of the Lord, and speak through us. Send your Holy Word to be upon our tongues and your gospel upon our hearts. Speak to us, speak through us, speak among us, for we, your servants, are listening. Amen. *(Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - www.stephenmfearing.com)*

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2034%3A11-16%2CEzekiel%2034%3A20-24&version=NIV>

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Let All Things Now Living"**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpMCE1G3N7Q>

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A31-46&version=NIV>

It's that time of the year, Thanksgiving. It's a time to set aside, a Sabbath, if you will, to remember. To remember and give thanks to God for so much. It is time to give thanks for the parents we have or had. Thanks for family, friends, health, a roof over our head, clothes on our backs, and food on our table. It is a time to remember and to reflect. Over the past few months we have faced a contentious election, a pandemic, closures, masks, social distancing, travel bans, riots, takeovers, racial tensions, injustices and yet here we are. Yes, here we are, by the Grace of God. Grace. Interesting word. It conveys much meaning. Gift. Favor. Unmerited. Not earned. And yet received without coercion or sleight of hand. It is freely given and gratefully received. And yet we use this very word as a synonym for prayer.

Every year in Christian homes around the country, at about noon, many gather around the table and say, "Grace." We say, "Thank you, Lord for this abundant bounty. This bonanza. This converted sunshine. Lord, it all comes from you to us. We did nothing to deserve it and yet you....." Thank you!

Is it no wonder that the Psalmist invites us, encourages us, inspires us to declare, announce, decree that our God Reigns.

Notice the four verbs in this passage. One, Shout. Two, Worship. Three, Know, and four, Enter.

Our God reigns therefore SHOUT! Yes, shout for joy. Our God is a good and gracious God. He blesses in abundance overflowing. He loves us, cares for us, protects us, and even lives among and within us. There is no other God like ours.

Our natural response to such extravagant love is worship. Worship is accompanied with gladness expressed in joyful (FULL OF JOY) songs. An oxymoron, inexpressible joy expressed. Our hearts overflow with gratitude and cannot help but to sing songs of joy and gladness to our Good God.

The Psalmist invites us to Know, to Taste, to Experience for ourselves that the LORD is God. The LORD, the one who makes covenant with humankind. A covenant which He keeps and fulfills abundantly! We have reason to rejoice. This Good Lord and God made us. He made us very good. We are his. He redeemed us from sin and death. We are his people, His temple. And we are the sheep of his pasture. In him we graze, eat, and live. He is our place, our home for In Him we live and move and have our being!

The invitation continues. Knowing whose we are, we are ready to enter into deeper fellowship with our creator. We come bearing gifts of thanksgiving and praise to our maker. Jesus is that Door by which we come to our Father. We enter through the gate



**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, to you and to you alone we bring what is rightfully yours. Take. Bless. Multiply and use for your glory and kingdom. Amen.

**\* CLOSING HYMN            "Now Thank We All Our God"        Blue Hymnal #555**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk>

**\* BENEDICTION**

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers (NIV). Go, bless as you have been blessed. Amen

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**The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service**