

LITANY FOR FINDING HOME

O God,
help us find our way home.

SILENT PRAYERS



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ASSURANCE

Listen to the promise of the Prophet Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel....Look and see for everyone is coming home. Your sons are coming from distant lands; your daughters will be carried home. Your eyes will shine and your heart will thrill with joy. For God will be your everlasting light and your days of mourning will come to an end."

Thanks be to God who welcomes us home. Amen.

#

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 479

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven, glad of heart your carols raise;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY 11:00

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 11:00

GOD'S WORD TO US

PSALTER

Psalm 84:1-5, 11-12

OT p. 513

ANTHEM 11:00

I Will Arise

arr. A. Parker & R. Shaw

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:25-32

NT p. 74

SERMON

Staying Home

Lynne Clements

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God

in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

from the *Brief Statement of Faith*, 1983

*HYMN 11:00

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

see back page

(vs. 1, choir only; vss. 2-3, all)

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 16

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY 8:30

Herzlich tut mich erfreuen

Johannes Brahms

11:00

How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings Fair

Robert Powell

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

HS No. 83

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord we offer as your gift.

Young and old your praise expressing, our glad song to you we lift.

All the saints in heav'n adore you, we would join their glad acclaim;

As your angels serve before you, so on earth we praise your name.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give you thanks, O God, for your gracious generosity to us.
Bless these gifts and multiply them,
for the sake of those in need
and for the glory of your kingdom. Amen.

***HYMN**

How Lovely, Lord

No. 207

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

Helmut Walcha

HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this:
3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;



There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice, which is more than li - ber - ty.
There is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
And the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
But we make God's love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
There is wel - come for the sin - ner and more gra - ces for the good;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
And we turn that love to strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his blood.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Charlottesville, Virginia

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

God of grace, we stand at the threshold of this day you have offered to us.

Open our hearts and minds that as we worship you and hear your word, we might be freed from all that holds us back from entering in to the place of love and joy you have made for us and for all your children. Give us ears to hear your invitation to come home.

Amen.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Reformation Sunday

October 28, 2018

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Whether I am the younger son or the elder son, God's only desire is to bring me home.

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Return of the Prodigal Son*

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

Georg Kauffmann

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Where is home?

Home is where the heart resides.

Home is where God's Spirit chooses to dwell.

Home is here among God's people,

among prophets and exiles, strangers and friends. Where is home?

Home is the place we leave and return to.

"Home is where, when you have to go there,

they have to take you in."

Home is the place we long to find.

Home is the place where we long to be found.

May justice dwell in the wilderness.

May righteousness abide in a fruitful field.

May God's people find their way home.

#

***HYMN**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

No. 457

*Congregation may stand. #Latecomers seated.

Please turn off cell phones during the service.