

*Presbytery of Detroit
Order of Worship
Tuesday, May 23, 2023
Fort Street Presbyterian Church*

Vision Statement:

As the Presbytery of Detroit, we commit ourselves to empowering collaborative community in service of Christ.

Mission Statement:

Relying on the Holy Spirit, we follow God by unmasking idolatries in Church and culture, listening to the voices of peoples long silenced, empowering congregational vitality, confronting structural racism, and responding to systemic poverty.

Worship Leadership:

Rev. Melissa Allison, Westminster, Ann Arbor

Rev. Gregory Bryant, Calvary, Detroit

Rev. Jim Faile, First, Dearborn

Elder Robyn Hudgins, Intern, Fort Street, Detroit

Patrick Kuhl, Organist, Fort Street, Detroit

Rev. Jackie Spycher, First, Northville

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: In life and in death we belong to God.

All: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

One: the love of God,

All: and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

One: we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,

All: whom alone we worship and serve.

***Opening Prayer**

Loving and Holy God,

We thank you for your unending care for us.

Through the Holy Spirit, be our guide and hope.

Open wide our hearts to receive your love

and to extend your compassion to the whole of the human family.

Give us the courage this day to identify and speak the truths of our world and community.

Give us the humility to name our faults and brokenness.

We give thanks for your gracious mercy.

Hear and receive our prayers and praise this day.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** GTG 312—*Take Us As We Are, O God*

Call to Confession

We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

Prayer of Confession

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
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
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.

Words of Assurance

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.

Everyone: **We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

Readings

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Matthew 25: 31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'³⁷ Then the

righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?' ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?' ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,' ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Group Discussions—Unmasking Idolatries

Please break up into groups of 4-6 people and discuss the following question:

What are the idolatries that need unmasking in culture, in Church, in the presbytery, in our congregations, in ourselves?

Use the papers provided to name your answers; then affix them to the mask up front. If you're online, type your contributions in the chat. Your responses will be added.

Unmasking and Response

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

**All: we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,**

One: even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

All: praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***Closing Hymn** GTG 300—*We Are One in the Spirit*

***Benediction**

One: With believers in every time and place,

All: we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

One: can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude

*Please stand in body or spirit

Liturgy based on *The Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA Book of Confessions,*

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