

The Presbytery at Worship



Northminster Presbyterian Church
Sept. 16, 2024

Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery

**THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE
WORSHIP**

**Please stand if able*

INTRODUCTION

Lynn Jacques

Today's worship service is modeled after the style used by Isaiah's Table "where God's abundant grace and love are shared among all." The order of worship and liturgy comes directly from one of their previous services, and the headings and sending forth are used each week. The time of reflection is an adaptation of the interactive style used at Isaiah's Table which includes a time for questions and response to the week's Scripture and Message. In keeping with the desire to provide Spirit-filled worship in new and creative ways, we hope that you be blessed and inspired by this style of worship and perhaps inspired to share a new idea or two with your congregation. To God be the glory! --The worship workgroup of the Congregational Development and Presbytery Connections Committee (previously Vision & Strategy.)

GATHERING SONG *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *God calls us to worship, as we set this time aside to concentrate on God, being thankful to be here in community.*

Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers,

We gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.

Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the

journey,

Each of us seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.

Builders of bridges in fractured communities, those who stand on either side of walls of fear,

The Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!

CALL TO CONFESSION *We set this time aside in worship to confess our sins and shortcomings.*

Do we really want God to dwell within us, or are we only willing to 'rent out' space for a brief visit? Our actions, our words, our silence, our fears all show the presence, or absence, of God in our lives. Let us empty ourselves of all which burdens us, and welcome the One who lives with us forever. Please join me as we pray,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst.

Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior.

(Time of silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

Mary Heather Harrington

"God So Loved the World"

Presbytery Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON & MESSAGE

RE Pearl Fischer

Scripture

Sermon Title

TIME OF REFLECTION

Karen Wolff

1. Turn to 2 or 3 neighbors. How did God speak to you in the sermon today? What did you hear? (2 min.)
2. As a whole: Sharing of the answers above and questions for clarification or feedback about specific things you heard in the sermon? (3 min.)
3. As a whole: What action are you inspired to take as a result of what you heard today? (2 min.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION

***HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

***SENDING FORTH** *(used each week at Isaiah's Table)*

Now go, to greet stranger and dear friend equally.

We will share God's steadfast love as we seek to live in faithfulness.

Now go, to share Christ's compassion with everyone.

We will tear down dividing walls and build bridges of hope.

Now go, to live as one as the Spirit gathers you with others.

We will build communities that welcome all, especially the outsiders.

As you go know this, the God that made the world knows your name, knows your face and cares. This is true of you on your best days and your worst. It's true of your neighbor and your enemy. And may the love that was revealed in Jesus the Christ dwell within you and go before you. (Rev. Tripp Fuller)

CLOSING PRAISE *Halle Halle Hallelujah*

Halle, halle, halle, lujah, halle, halle, halle, lujah. Halle, halle, halle, lujah. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x3)