

Words of Worship for September 6 , 2020

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship

God said, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord."

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors. Let us worship God this day!

Prayer on this Labor Day

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for work, and for the many works you have given us to do.

Hear our prayers on this day of rest, and strengthen us for the week ahead.

We pray that you would be present with those who work by day, and those who work by night; those who work near, and those whose work carries them far away. We pray for those who in this uncertain time have no job.

We pray all of this knowing that your labors on our behalf never cease, and that your yoke is easy, and your burden is light.¹ Hear those prayers we hold closely.

Silent reflection time

We pray together in our hearts as Jesus taught his disciples so long ago. Our Father...

Scripture

Mathew 16: 24-26

Morning Reflection Pastor Alaire

The Work of Taking Up a Cross

Hymn of Response *Make me a servant*

Make me a servant, humble and meek.

Lord let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayers of my heart always be

make me a servant, make me a servant

make me a servant today

Dedicating Ourselves & Our Gifts.

We work for you, God, in whatever we do. Paid labor, volunteer work, our home life--all our time we spend for you.

Thank you for jobs which have provided us with an income; we share the fruit of our labor with you, knowing that you are the Great Provider.

Use these offerings and use us, Lord, in your kingdom work, to provide good news, healing, and hope to all people.² Amen.

Come to the Table³

Invitation

We gather together here at God's table, from the lawn, our cars, in person, over Facebook.

We hear the words of Jesus, and know the task ahead of us. We come to be nourished, to receive. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We remember that all, all are welcome at your table, O Lord.

This is a new time, a time to look anew, to truly see those right around us, those we've overlooked, looked beyond. All are invited.

In the bread we eat, and in what we drink, we honor farmers and bakers, those who pick fruit, often endangered by pesticides and those who work in processing factories, even in dangerous conditions. We honor truck drivers, and those who stock grocery shelves, all whose hands make these basic things for us.

Prayer of Consecration

Holy One, we pause and remember because others have passed your story on – spiritually and physically – to each of us. We pray that your Spirit of life and love, of tenderness and power, rest upon our bread and drink. May they feed our inmost needs and pour forth a grace that can change the world. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. **Amen.**

Words of Remembering

We gather at the table because we remember Jesus, our companion, born of lowly birth, reaching out to those others would dismiss.

Christ claims all, and challenges and calls us to justice and mercy, to love our neighbors, no matter who or where they are. Christ gives peace beyond our understanding, and dwells within our daily strife and struggles as well as celebrating our joys.

We remember a Passover in Jerusalem when Jesus borrowed an upper room, soaked and scrubbed the tired feet of others, and explained that there is a God-shaped hole in everyone's belly and Jesus would fill it with love.

On Easter afternoon in Emmaus, Jesus reminded us that the bread of welcome on anyone's table, on everyone's table, is blessed, is holy. We are sent into the world, to be the body of Christ to others, feeding their hearts and souls, sharing the cup of salvation.

Sharing of the Elements

The bread on your table is blessed and broken. As long as the table is open to all, it is holy. Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

Eat and savor your bread.

The cup on your table is blessed and shared like the overflowing of tears and joy. Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

Drink from your cup and be quenched.

We give you thanks, O God. Amen.

Sending Forth

Go in peace, assured that God has heard,
and will continue to hear your prayers.
Remember that no curtain, no mask, separates
us from the presence of the Lord.

Therefore, every table at which you will sit this
week,

be it a school desk,
a work bench,
a lunch counter,
a meeting room table,
an office desk,
a board across sawhorses,
your own kitchen or dining room table;
every table is God's altar.

So boldly pray,

hold fast to hope,

and encourage and provoke one another
to put love into action.⁴

Go to live, and love and laugh and be a servant.

Amen.



¹ Rick Morley ² Carol Penner

³ based on liturgy by Maren Tirabassi ⁴ Re:worship blog

Mission Projects

September focus is personal dignity kits (PDK).

A list is in the tub up front, and in the
newsletter.

We anticipate worshipping next Sunday in our
sanctuary at 10am. Watch for the midweek
email with additional details.

Prayer concerns:

Take a moment at 9:30a on Thursdays and join
others in prayer. Sept 10, remember our military
families. Set your phone alarm.

Others concerns: Those struggling with ongoing
illness, upcoming surgeries, and continuing
recovery. Our school teachers, staff, students and
their families.