

**Holston Presbytery Worship
Jonesborough Presbyterian Church
Jonesborough, Tennessee
May 7 2024**

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*\*Please rise in body or in spirit  
For responsive portions, the congregation will read the **bold portions**  
Hymns are found on the last three pages of the bulletin*  
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Call to Worship

We come before the Lord.

With what shall we come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?

Will we come with burnt offerings? With precious objects?

God has shown us what is good.

And what does the Lord require of us?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Hymn *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* 280 GTG

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Beloved God, you are the one worthy of praise, who fills our hearts with extraordinary joy, and who weeps with us when we lash out and hurt each other. In your infinite love, you care for us, and teach us to love each other as you do. Instead, we too often use our feelings as a shortcut for manipulation, trying to get others to do what we want instead of listening for your guidance. Help us to change, to listen to each other, trusting in you and each other to love again in vulnerability, knowing that all shall be well. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 103:8-12)

Family of God, God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for those who are in awe of God.

Thanks be to God that in Christ we are a free and forgiven people!

Service of Commissioning: CRE Gary Helton, CRE Tracy Cagle, GA ruling elder commissioner Kathi Cary, GA teaching elder commissioner Rev. Maggie Rust, and GA Young Adult Advisory Delegate.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Unison Reading: Psalm 133:

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

To those being installed/commissioned: The grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do we, members and commissioners of Holston Presbytery, accept these leaders and servants, chosen by God through the voice of the church, to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

Commissioning Prayer (Unison):

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.

We thank you for leading these servants to this time and place.

Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you.

Help us to welcome new things you are doing in the world and to respect old things you keep and use.

Let your Holy Spirit guide so that the whole church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom.

Amen.

You are now installed and commissioned for the work you have been called by God to do. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. May the God peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Luke 24:13-35. (First Nations Version)

Sermon Hope Sammich Rev. Todd Jenkins

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, who made us in the divine image.

We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayers of the People

O God, we know that you are good. In our grief, anger, and sometimes in simply unlucky circumstances we sometimes forget that you are good, so we shake our fists against you, but like a loving parent, you hold us and comfort us and remind us of your steadfast love.

So God, help us turn our eyes, ears, and hearts to what is good. Restore our souls and mindset in a way that sees beauty in loving kindness and justice. Turn our gaze towards your peace that can reconcile.

As we think about conflicts in the world in places like Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and many other places we admit that it would be so much easier to turn away and let it just be. But God of peace, that isn't right. Set our hearts to things above, so that we can see those who suffer and are dying and work creatively with your Holy Spirit to usher ways of safety and peace. God, we know this isn't going to magically happen, because the work of peace is slow work. So, instill in us and the nations of this world, this slow work. So God, hear the cries of the hurting and with their backs against the wall, and remind them and us that you are this good and loving God.

As we lift up those who suffer in conflicts around the world, we also remember those who carry heavy burdens of sorrow and grief in their hearts.\

We pray for those who are sad. There is much to grieve, whether it is the loss of a loved one, a job, a friendship, or a relationship. Show comfort to those who mourn, and in your timing, may their mourning be turned into dancing once again.

We also celebrate with those who are in the midst of joy. We thank you for those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and accomplished goals and for those who are simply just feeling good. May their joy be contagious and a source of good news to a hurting world.

Loving God, may you bless us this coming week, and may we look for ways to see your love and grace in those around us.

We pray this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering (offering today goes to the Five Cents a Meal program)

Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here,

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We Lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Honor and worship are indeed your due, our Lord and our God, through Jesus Christ, for you created all things; by your will they were created, and for your glory they have their being. In your loving purpose you chose us before the foundation of the world to be your people; you gave your promises to Abraham and Sarah and bestowed your favor on the Virgin Mary.

Above all we give you thanks and praise for your grace in sending Jesus Christ, not for any merit of our own but when we had turned away from you.

We were bound in sin, but in your compassion you redeemed us, reconciling us to yourself with the precious blood of Christ.

In your Son you suffered with us and for us, offering us the healing riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and holiness.

Therefore, with people of every nation, tribe and language, with the whole church on earth and in heaven, joyfully we give you thanks and say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory and honor to you, God of grace, for you gave your only Son Jesus Christ once for all on the cross to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. The night before he died, he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore Heavenly Father, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come in glory.

