

WORSHIP GUIDE | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

// Review of last Sunday- January 20th

Songs:

[Spotify playlist](#)

Readings:

// Call to Worship //

If you are spiritually weary and in search of rest,
if you are mourning and you long for comfort,
if you are struggling and you desire victory,
if you recognize that you are a sinner and need
a Savior, God welcomes you here in the name
of Christ.

To the stranger in need of fellowship,
to those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
and to whoever will come,
this congregation opens wide its doors
and welcomes all in the name of the Lord Jesus
Christ

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: O God, we confess that the sin of racial
hatred and prejudice
distorts your divine character.

You created us in divine likeness, diverse and
beautiful:

In every person, every race, is your image.

All: But too often we fail to recognize your
image in all: Forgive us.

Leader: You created us to be a picture of the
unity of your diversity.

Our call is to fight for justice for all, but we have
focussed on ourselves and left others to fight for
themselves, seeing it as “their problem”.

All: We fail to choose to advocate for your
justice for all: Forgive us.

Leader: You created us for unity, yet we have only
looked at life through our own eyes.

We don't have compassion for those fighting
injustice because we refuse to put ourselves in
their shoes.

All: For our ugly individualism and neglect:
Forgive us.

Open our eyes to distinguish good from evil
Open our hearts to desire good over evil
Strengthen our wills to choose good over evil,
Keep us from being part of the problem, and
make us part of the solution.
Create among us your beloved multi-colored and
mutually dependent community of love.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Hear the good news: God's gift of grace in Jesus
Christ forgives us and sets us free to live full
human lives in community. We may go forth
confident of the grace to see with new eyes
beyond racial prejudice; to imagine with renewed
fervor justice and mercy for all, and to create with
a new will a community where all are given access
to God's abundant life.

All: Thanks be to God!

// Passing of the Peace //

We are all here because of God's hospitality.
We share the privilege of extending that hospitality
to each other.

Let's take a moment and greet one another in the
hospitality of Christ.

// Benediction //

Leader: You are united together. You are the
children of the God of the universe. Go live like it.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Peace be with you!

All: And also with you!

Scripture for Meditation

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

Reflection Questions:

- For our *Prayer of Confession* we confessed that we often neglect the needs of minorities and those experiencing injustice because we fail to put ourselves in their shoes. What are some reasons we do this? What is the biblical defense for why racism and injustice is wrong? How can we begin to notice and help those experiencing those things?
- How is Jesus the ultimate imitator of God? What scriptures reveal this?
- What is your hope in the midst of seeing you *don't* imitate God?
- What do you imagine God's face looks like when he looks at you? How does it change your life when you realize you are *beloved, esteemed, dear, favorite, worthy of love*?
- Have you ever experienced being *beloved and esteemed* by another person? Who was it and how did you experience/know of this type of love? If you have not experienced this from another person, how might that affect your ability to receive it from God?

// Prepare for this Sunday- January 27th

Songs:

[Spotify playlist](#)

Readings:

// Call to Worship //

Hallelujah! Servants of God, praise,
praise the name of the Lord.
Bless the Lord's name now and always.
Praise the Lord's name here and in every place
from east to west.
—Psalm 113:1-3

// Prayer of Confession //

Our Lord Jesus said:
“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’
This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
As God has instructed us in these great commandments, and because we have not lived in full obedience, let us now confess our sins to God,
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.
—based on Matthew 22:37-40

// Assurance of Pardon //

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me,
and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.
—Jeremiah 33:8

// Passing of the Peace //

As the peace of Christ is with each of you who have faith this morning, we invite you to pass the peace to one another by greeting each other here this morning.

// Benediction //

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
—Romans 15:5-6

Leader: Peace be with you!

All: And also with you!