

PRESBYTERY OF ST. AUGUSTINE
The Worship of God
May 13, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come as you are, broken and burdened,

People: and find healing in God's goodness.

Leader: Come as you are, gifted and beloved,

People: and find purpose in God's calling.

Leader: Come as you are, weary and worried,

People: and find comfort in God's embrace.

Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

People: and worship God with joy!

HYMN

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

Hymn #317

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.

All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: Loving Creator, you breathed life into us through your Word of truth;

People: We were formed in your image, children of all colors and backgrounds.

Leader: The destructive poison of racism has caused your beloved to suffer.

People: We confess that we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Prejudice, discrimination, and hatred have spawned brokenness, violence, and even death. We have permitted the sin of racism to divide us through what we have done and left undone; we have harmed others through both our words and our silence. Grant us courage to repent, to stand for justice, and to truly love and embrace one another.

Leader: Merciful God, cleanse our hearts as we seek forgiveness. Receive our silent prayers of confession...

(silent prayers)

L: Friends, the saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

P: Thanks be to God!

(Confession by Rev. Rhea Summit, Pastor, New Alexandria UMC *(adapted)*)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

SERMON

“Crying out with a loud Voice”

Becca Putman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(From the Confession of Belhar, excerpted)*

We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND DOXOLOGY

THE COMMUNION

Invitation to Discipleship Matthew 25:37-40 Jesus teaches that by feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, and visiting the sick and imprisoned, we serve Christ himself. We are a Matthew 25 presbytery; chances are, your church is already helping build vitality, dismantle racism, or eradicate poverty. Consider becoming a Matthew 25 church and share in this vital mission and common purpose.

HYMN

“Jesus Be with Us” (M25 hymn by Gambrell)

Chorus

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to
follow the gospel and live as we pray.
Send us your Spirit and show us your way.
Jesus, be with us today.

1 Where there is hunger and thirst in the land,
scatter the systems of greed.
Jesus be with us; make use of our hands.
Lift up your people in need.

Chorus

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to
follow the gospel and live as we pray.
Send us your Spirit and show us your way.
Jesus, be with us today.

2 Where there is hatred because of our skin,
break down the walls of our fear.
Jesus be with us to save us from sin.
In your great love, draw us near.

Chorus

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to
follow the gospel and live as we pray.
Send us your Spirit and show us your way.
Jesus, be with us today.

3 Where there are valleys of bones, dry as dust,
build up the body of Christ.
Jesus be with us, and help us to trust.
Teach us a new way of life.

Chorus

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to
follow the gospel and live as we pray.
Send us your Spirit and show us your way.
Jesus, be with us today.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

"We truly grateful for your time and effort. Thank you."

Becca Putman, teaching elder, Westminster, Gainesville.

Steve Crowley, ruling elder, First Palatka

JoAnn Dyson, teaching elder retired, Ocala

Don Johnson, teaching elder, Woodlawn, Jacksonville

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Here are some images that I used on the bulletin if you would like to use them.

