

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley Worship Bulletin

August 29, 2021

Welcome / Call to Worship

Janet Sanders

One: I invite you to take a moment to open your heart to the living God!

Many: Amid so many distractions around us, and so much noise within us, we come into God's presence.

One: Let us take a breath, quiet our anxious thoughts, and listen for God's voice.

Many: Lord, speak, for your people are listening.

One: Let's center our spirits, so we can honor God with our whole hearts.

Many: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts lead us to truly worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

One: Come, let us worship God.

Song: The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation, by spirit and the word
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride,
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee

The Church's One Foundation
Samuel John Stone, Samuel Sebastian Wesley
CCLI Song # 55377 © Public Domain

Prayer of Confession

Ralph Anderson

Lord, you call, but we do not
always recognize your voice.
Sometimes we don't listen carefully.
Sometimes we're caught off guard.

Lord, you call, but we haven't
always taught others to hear you.
Sometimes we stand in the way,
allowing our voice to ring out over yours.

Lord, you call, but we don't
always believe our ears.
Sometimes we believe we know better.
Sometimes we think you can't possibly be calling us.

Forgive us, Lord, our unpracticed listening,
our closed ears. Help us to hear.

All this we ask of you, confident
in your unchanging faithfulness,
God in community, holy in One.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the Good News:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Scripture: James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Sermon: Quick, Slow, Slow

Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Stryker

Lord's Prayer

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.

Call to Give

Song: Speak O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you,
to receive the food of your holy word
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today,
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes, for your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes,
in the radiance of your purity
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the earth is filled with your glory

Speak O Lord
Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
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Benediction

Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell