

Order of Worship  
Sunday, September 1  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Bristol, VA

- \* All who are able are asked to stand. CCLI #1230512  
Please silence your cell phones.

**Gathering for Worship**

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Lemmel

- \* Call to Worship: (Responsively)  
Wherever you go, look up and down and all around you will see the handiwork of God.  
**All of creation is held in God's hand who comes to defend the truth and to destroy falsehood.**  
The Lord blows away the fog, so the truth is seen.  
**Open-handed reaches out to all who need to know of love.**  
Comes near to those who hunger to know God's ways.  
**So let joy abound in this holy space.**  
Let gladness show on each face.  
**For God is here to say, "I want you - you to know me for I love you."**  
**Let us Praise God together with our lips and the deeds of our lives!**  
Amen

- \* Opening Hymn #65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  
**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.**  
**Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.**  
**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.**

- \* Call to Confession

- \* Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
**So many times in this world, we are challenged to "take sides," one against the other; but that is contrary to your will. You call us to stand for mercy, justice, love, forgiveness, hope, and peace. You want us to be people who care deeply about others and about this world. Forgive us for the many times we do not live up to this call. Help us grow to be ready to truly and joyfully serve you, O God. Free us from selfishness and self-centeredness.**  
**Forgive us for all that prevents us from giving full attention to the work and service your love calls us to do. Remind us again that it is you who will make it possible for us to live out our commitments in these difficult days. Guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your people, to be known as followers of Jesus. Gift us with lives of peace; for we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**  
(Silence)

- \* Assurance of Pardon  
...friends, believe the good news of the gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

- \* Passing of the Peace

- \* Gloria Patri Hymn #582  
*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

**Hearing the Word**

Children's Message

Anthem *Sanctus/Holy is the Lord* Schubert

Sermon "What? Then So What?" Patricia Neel  
Scripture Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; James 1:17-27

- \* Affirmation of Faith (Unison) from A Declaration of Faith  
**God has reached out to those who suffer injustices, and defended the excluded, the poor, and the hungry. The Lord is moving toward the time when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We are persuaded God is at work here and now when people deal fairly with each other and labor to change customs and structures that enslaved and oppressed human beings. We believe God sends us to work with others to correct the growing disparity between rich and poor nations, to achieve fair legislation justly administered and enforced to make the operation of courts and penal institutions more just and humane. We are charged to root out prejudice and racism from our hearts and institutions. We are commissioned to stand with women and men of all ages, races, and classes as they struggle for dignity and respect and the chance to exercise power for the common good. We must not countenance in the church and its institutions the inequities we seek to correct in the world. We must be willing to make amends as we can for centuries of injustice which the church condoned.**

**Responding to the Word**

Prayers of the People and the 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 Offering

Offertory *Breathe On Me, Breath of God* Phillips

- \* Doxology - tune is #609  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

- \* Prayer of Dedication

**Sending Out**

- \* Hymn #353 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*  
**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus'  
blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**(Refrain) On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness seems to hide his face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.**

**(Refrain)**

**His oath, his covenant, his blood,  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay.**

**(Refrain)**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found.  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.**

**(Refrain)**

- \* Charge and Benediction  
\* Response *Go in Peace* Lovelace  
\* Postlude *We're Marching to Zion* Phillips

