

Worship Service

B Y D A V I D G . M I L L E R

Prelude

The Summons to Worship:

Leader: Come everyone who is fallen and fractured. Come everyone who is wandering and wondering. Come everyone who is lost and lonely.

People: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.” We are the fallen and wandering and lonely ones. We have nowhere to turn but to God.

Leader: Then hear the good news! God is a forgiving God. God’s mighty throne is a mercy seat. In God’s hands are justice and love, and those are the very hands that made you.

People: “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” God lifts up the fallen; God leads the wanderers home; God loves the lonely.

Leader: Then come, all of you. Bind your broken hearts together, bind your spirits with those fellow spirits around you, and come now to God.

Worship Hymn:

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

Morning Prayer:

People: O God, slow to chide and swift to bless, we worship you today as God of justice and of mercy. Help us, your children, to model that vital tension in our own lives.

Forgive us our failings, we pray, both those things we have failed to do and those things we have failed to refrain from doing. And forgive us, O Most Gracious Lord, when we have failed to forgive those who have failed us, as your son, our savior, Jesus taught us to pray, we boldly say:

**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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen.**

Leader: All those who would truly worship God should be free of earthly entanglements. Therefore, during this time of peace, if there are those to whom you should offer forgiveness or if there are those from whom you should request forgiveness, then fulfill the words of your prayer and set each other free with the power of forgiveness.

The peace of God is exchanged.

The Witness from the Old Testament: Psalm 85 and Psalm 86:1-5

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Reflection:

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

The Witness from the New Testament: 1 John 1:5–2:6

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People:

Leader: The spirit of the Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. Forgiving God who made the world a good and perfect place in which we might grow in knowledge and grace, but we, the human family, soon turned from you, spurning your relationship and hurting each other.

People: Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to forgive.

Leader: We continue to create systems and institutions that selfishly seek their own ends rather than the good of the creation and the will of the creator. We join with those systems and institutions, sometimes actively, sometimes silently, to oppress the poor and solidify injustice. In doing so we spurn your relationship and we hurt each other.

People: Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to forgive.

Leader: Even in your church, O God, we fight for positions and power. We compare and compromise in order to gain numbers and resources. We become more concerned about our facilities than our faith, and we become more worried about our budget than about our brothers and sisters. Even here we spurn your relationship, and we hurt each other.

People: Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to forgive.

Leader: Our families and friendships become battlegrounds of selfishness. Our love is conditional upon performance and prosperity. We use words as weapons and justify ourselves by looking out for ourselves instead of one another. Not only do we fail to love our enemies; we have trouble loving those closest to us. In this area above all, we spurn your relationship and we hurt each other.

People: Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to forgive.

Leader: O God, praise be to you, creator, redeemer, sustainer, who can set us free. In your forgiveness help us to find the liberty from systems and institutions, to make peace with poverty of spirit, to lose ourselves in the Christ-like sacrifice of love. O Lord, who set free the woman taken in adultery and who set

free her accusers, set us free with your forgiveness as well
and challenge us to go and sin no more.

People: In your forgiveness, O Lord, give us the freedom to forgive.
Amen.

Presentation of the Offerings

Sung Response:

“Forgive Us, Lord”

Forgive us, Lord, and set us free
To love each other joyfully,
To worship you abundantly
To be what we are called to be. Amen.

David G. Miller

suggested tunes: OLD 100TH or TRINITY COLLEGE

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The Witness of the Gospels: John 8:1-12

Reader: The gospel of our Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Sung Response:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

Unknown

suggested tune: GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

Sermon

Hymn of Response:

“Heaviness of Heart and Conscience”

Terry W. York

Text and suggested tune, WEBSTER, pp. 42-43 this volume

The Departure:

Leader: Those whose lives have been restored, go now into a world still battered and broken.

People: **Those whose lives have been healed, go now into a world still sick and sinful.**

Leader: Those whose lives have been redirected, go now into a world still drifting and dozing.

People: **Go and tell the world this: God forgives. God frees. God fulfills. Repent and believe the gospel. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Recessional and Postlude



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