



2022 Worship Resource

Hymn Suggestions

- 539 We Will Go Out with Joy
- 14 For the Beauty of the Earth
- 378 We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom
- 507 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table
- 59 The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases

You Shall Go Out with Joy and Be Led Forth with Peace — Isaiah 55:12

Call to Worship

Adapted from Isaiah 55

From north and south and east and west,
all Creation sings forth your praises!
 The mountains and the hills burst into song;
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
 Your steadfast love never ceases.
With joy and peace, let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

God of all nations,
 you have poured out your blessings upon all the peoples of the earth.
 Grant us eyes to see your gifts of faith and love.
 Appoint us as heralds of your mercies that are new every morning.
 Empower us to write the vision of your peaceable kingdom,
 where destruction and violence are no more,
 where suffering and wars shall cease.
 Through our worship empower us to be sent out with joy
 as bearers of your hope in a hurting world;
 through Christ. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

From 2 Timothy 1:1–14

God's grace was given to us in Christ before the ages began.
 In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us,
 we often act in destructive and hateful ways.

Trusting in Christ's mercy that never ends,
let us with honesty confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord,
you created the whole world and called it good,
 but we look out at your world and see division and suffering.
You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace,
 but we choose division over diversity,
 confrontation over civility,
 conflict over peace born from justice.
You call us to love the least of these among us,
 but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort.
We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors.
Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ.
Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline —
 that with faith in Christ, we might be made new
 and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

3:22–23

We call to mind your promises and therefore we find hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
God's mercies are new every morning.
Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

From Lamentations

Prayer for Illumination

In the quietness of this hour, we wait for your Spirit.
Tune our ears to hear the promise of your salvation.
Incline our hearts toward your message of peace.
Summon our will to respond to your Word with justice and love,
that we might go forth with joy;
through Christ. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God of peace,
we come in prayer seeking your promise:
 a peace that surpasses understanding.
When we look out at the world,
 we see war and division,
 heartache and hopelessness,
 violence and vitriol.
We lament with the world's suffering,
 knowing that you weep with us.
Transform our tears into signs of hope.
With the gift of water
 resting on tear-soaked cheeks,
 falling in fresh rains,
 blessing us in baptismal fonts,
pour forth your peace into a dry and weary world.

God of righteousness,
we come in prayer, waiting quietly for your salvation.

We pray for those who are lost and lonely;
for those who are suffering, sick and scared;
for the fragile and the forgotten;
for war-torn countries and divided lands;
for children and the aged caught in conflict;
for those on the margins seeking to meet you.
Help us to trust that your mercies are new every morning.
From the smallest mustard seed of faith,
stir in us the will to be part of your transformation of the world.

God of justice,
we come in prayer seeking your vision
for a more just and merciful world filled with joy.
Grant us eyes to see new possibilities for relationship and restoration.
Embolden us not only to see but to act.
Empower us to write the vision
of a world where systems and structures
are built to serve the least of these;
of a world where structural racism is replaced by reconciliation and repair;
of a world where poverty is transformed into plenty;
of a world where justice and joy reign.
In our actions and our prayers,
help us to be your people of justice and peace.
Through your spirit of power and love,
empower us to serve the least of these who are our siblings in Christ,
the sick and imprisoned,
the hungry and thirsty,
the naked and lonely.
In our love of neighbor, open our eyes to see your presence among us.

God of joy,
we come in prayer seeking you.
As the rain pours down from heaven and waters the earth,
so may your Word spring forth as our source of justice and our joy.
As the mountains and hills burst into song,
so may we return to praise and glory to you.
As all Creation bears witness to your goodness,
so may we bear witness to the image of God in one another that you called very good.
As the trees of the field clap their hands at your mighty acts,
so may our hands clap for joy when your justice and peace reign.
For all these things we pray, through Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all.
Jesus dined with sinners and saints,
with farmhands and foreigners,
with disciples and doubters,
with children and cherished friends,
with the outcast and the outspoken,
with lepers and loved ones.
And just as he ate at others' tables,
when Christ set his banquet table, he welcomed us all, too.

As we gather around Christ's table,
we are united with all of God's beloved across the world
through the love and grace made known in bread broken and cup passed.
So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, God of all Creation,
for the blessing of your earth and all your children,
for the mercies you pour forth in fresh rains and harvests of plenty,
for joy that comes in the morning.

We are a grateful people.

You created a world of harmony and peace,
but our yearning for power and privilege throughout history
led to division and conflict, suffering and violence.

We give thanks that you sent prophets and poets
to lament and remind
to bear witness and call us to yet a better way.
to write the vision of a peaceable kingdom for all to see.

With fresh eyes and renewed hope,
we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks that in the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus
to bear witness to your mercy, grace and love.
In his living, he showed us how to love.
In his dying, he offered us undeserved mercy.
In his rising, he granted us grace.

Through the gift of faith, even faith as small as a mustard seed,
his witness rekindles in us the gifts of God,
not so that we can hold onto these gifts for ourselves
but so that we can be united across the globe as one family of faith
gathered around one table,
sharing in one holy meal,
sustained by a love that binds us together in peace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our many tables
trusting that Christ is the host of our sacred meal together.
May the blessing of grain from the earth and fruit of the vine
be a reminder of the true joy of communion
that unites us in one worldwide covenant of love.

Sustained by your Word, fed by this holy meal,
may we go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
through Christ our peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“You Shall Go Out with Joy (The Trees of the Field)” Glory to God #80

Blessing and Charge

The peace of Christ,
the love of God,
and the joy of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. **Alleluia!**

Go out in joy,
bearing witness to the good news of the gospel,
and be led forth in peace,
sharing the peace of Christ with all. **Amen.**

*Prepared by the Rev. Katie Owen Aumann, senior pastor,
Morningside Presbyterian Church, Atlanta*