

Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession *(Responsively)*

Tim Latham

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

**If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,
we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is
in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**

—1 John 1:5-7, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Tim Latham

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. By your Holy Spirit, forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image.
Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Tim Latham

You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
People of God,
all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ.
In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed,
and made to be a community united in faith.
Thanks be to God.

—based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: *Thanks be to God!*

 **Gloria Patri**

*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.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being.
In the company of the upright, let us honor God for
the blessings and goodness we have received.
—based on Psalm 111:1

Offering

Offertory *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* *Townend*
 Linda Gyrath

 **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

 **Prayer of Dedication**

Lord of life, you promise abundant life to all who live together
in Christ. We offer these gifts as a sign of our desire to share
our resources for the common good and building of your
kingdom. We humbly ask that you use them to strengthen our
unity and deepen our witness and healing presence in this
needy world. **Amen.**

New Members *Elizabeth Ritschard, Irene Penza, Jim Butler, Grace Butler*

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of
God and without hope for your salvation except in His
sovereign mercy? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and
the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him
alone for your salvation as He is offered in the gospel? **I do.**

Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the
grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes
the followers of Christ? **I do.**

Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting
and participating with this congregation in its service of God

and its ministry to others to the best of your ability? **I do.**

Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual oversight of this Church Session, and do you promise to promote the unity, purity and peace of the Church? **I do.**

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you

Preparation Hymn 390 *May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*

Proclaiming **God speaks to us through His Word**

Scripture Reading *Matthew 25:14-30*

⁴ “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, depending on each one’s ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately ¹⁶ the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. ¹⁷ In the same way the man with two earned two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five talents approached, presented five more talents, and said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I’ve earned five more talents.’

²¹ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’

²² “The man with two talents also approached. He said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I’ve earned two more talents.’


²³ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’

²⁴ “The man who had received one talent also approached and said, ‘Master, I know you. You’re a harsh man, reaping where you haven’t sown and gathering where you haven’t scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

²⁶ “His master replied to him, ‘You evil, lazy servant! If you knew that I reap where I haven’t sown and gather where I haven’t scattered, ²⁷ then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and I would have received my money back with interest when I returned.

²⁸ “So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰ And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Commission Song** *Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death*

Verse 1

*What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand*

Chorus

*O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death*

Verse 2

*What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ*

Verse 3

*Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude** *Christ, the Cornerstone* *Wilson*