



Welcome to Worship

Kingston Presbyterian Church

We Gather in Spirit. ~ Worship August 15, 2021

Prelude: *Improvisations on a Shaker theme*

Nick Robinson

Call to Worship

One: Family of faith, this must be the place.

All: This is the place for connection and growth, for community and hope.

One: This must be the place for questions like,

All: “Where are you from?” and “What do you need?” For whispers of: “I’ve been thinking of you,” and, “I’ve been meaning to ask...”

One: This must be the place, because all belong here.

All: All are welcome here. All hurt and joy, needs and prayers, dreams and love, are welcome here.

One: God is near. Let us worship Holy God.

Prayer of Confession ~*We Tell the Truth about Ourselves and We Turn to God*

Gracious God, sometimes life feels like cooking with flour – it looks like it should be easy, but we always make a mess. This is particularly true when it comes to our relationships. We so desperately long to say the right thing, to be the right thing, to find the right solution, that we overstep the line. Forgive us for assuming the place you fill. Forgive us for imagining that we, in all our humanity, could possibly fix all the hurt in this world. Instead, give us the grace and the strength to stand by our loved ones in their moments of need to witness their hurt without trying to fix it. You are God. We are not. Teach us how to be a friend. Teach us to ask, “What do you need?” Teach us how to point to you. [Praying silently] Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, no matter how many times you have spoken without listening, assumed without knowing, offered without asking, or rushed without waiting – you are forgiven. God knows your desires and your intent. God knows when we try and miss the mark, and God surrounds us in grace. So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

Every day is a new day to love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are invited into relationship. Thanks be to God for growth and grace that know no end. Amen.

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF THE LORD

Children's Time

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4: 9-18

Sermon: *What do You Need?* [Part 2]

Pastor Sharyl

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in relationships. We believe in asking hard questions, in showing up for one another, and sitting together through the pain. We believe in listening with grace, listening with curiosity, and apologizing with sincerity. We believe in asking for help, saying what we need, and trusting that no degree of vulnerability could strip us of God's love. We believe in trying our best and offering grace when our best is not enough. And we believe that God is in all relationships – modeling for us the value of community through the relationships of the Trinity. So we love today, and we strive to love even more tomorrow. Let it be so. Amen.

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

When we love someone in need, it is easy to give. We show up with casseroles and prayer blankets. We send cards and make phone calls. We babysit the kids and drop off flowers. We don't think twice about it, because when we love someone in need, it is easy to give. In worship, when we give to the offering, what we are also declaring is that not just those we love are worthy of our gifts, but God is worthy of our gifts, and strangers whom we have never met are worthy of our gifts. In worship, when we give to the offering, we are declaring that all of creation deserves love and care, which is a radical notion in this hurting world. So today, as a way to practice being in relationship and drawing closer to one another, I invite you to give to the mission and ministry of this church. For when we love, it is always easy to give.

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Continuing our worship, we will give back to God our offerings, gifts, pledges, and tithes by mail or online with Tithe.ly at <https://kingstonpresbyterian.org>. We offer God our hearts, hands, minds and money as an expression of gratitude and our love for God and as a marker of our partnership with God through our Kingston Presbyterian Church.

Saying the Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

God of the here and now. My, oh my, how we need you. This world seems to turn upside down all the time. Our center of gravity feels off. In moments like these, we are particularly grateful for the care you offer and the stability of friends. So today we say a prayer of thanks for the people in our life who take the time to ask: "What do you need?" ...

With deep gratitude and with true humility, we pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying together: **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**

DISCIPLES ARE SENT AND BLESSED TO SERVE GOD

***Hymn:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

GTG #306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds in like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear. And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Benediction

Postlude: *Postlude*

Nick Robinson



Flowers

The flowers are in loving memory of my parents, Ira and Queen Esther Perren by Florence Perren-Diaz.