

## Worship Order for a service sharing experiences from the 31st General Synod

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORLD

WELCOME

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from the Opening Worship service at General Synod*)

ONE: At the beginning, as God gave birth to creation, light danced with darkness and her holy waters flowed free and clear ...

**ALL: To make glad the city of God!**

ONE: God's rivers flowing have fed the people and trees, animals and crops of this land since the most ancient of times...

**ALL: To make glad the city of God!**

ONE: God leads us into waters of hope and liberation,  
To immerse ourselves in the risks of love and justice For all living things...

**ALL: To make glad the city of God!**

ONE: At the shores of all sacred waters  
God calls out to the Beloved  
To gather together and share abundant life: Welcome the homeless and feed the hungry, Embrace the stranger and seek out the outcast, Create community with all God's beloved...

**ALL: To make glad the city of God!**

OPENING HYMN – Church Musician typically picks the music.

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (from worship at General Synod)

ONE: Still Speaking Spirit, in the wonder of light,  
and in the soul-stirring movement around us,  
speak to our hearts—give us the Word that will bring new life.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

ONE: Still Speaking Spirit,  
in the riffs and runs we hear in the strange and familiar;  
speak to our hearts—give us the Word that will bring new life.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

ONE: Still Speaking Spirit, in the silence between the beats,  
in the silence that follows the comma;  
speak to our hearts—give us the Word that will bring new life.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SONG OF GRACE – Church Musician typically picks the music.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT – the 3 Loves

TIME OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

(ANTHEM) or not depending on the summer Sunday

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 46

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- <sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> “Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.<sup>[a]</sup>

Matthew 22: 34-40

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup> He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

## **SERMON/MESSAGE**

HYMN Church Musician typically picks the music.

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

#### **Call to offering**

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
and so in faith and with assurance we offer our gifts this morning.

#### **Song of Thanksgiving (doxology)**

#### **Prayer of Dedication – Liturgist**

ONE:: We hope in a generous God who meets our needs.  
We hope in a creative God who multiplies our gifts.  
We hope in a mysterious God who invites us to kingdom living.

**ALL: God of grace, accept these gifts and us in your service, Amen**

## **LIVING THE WORD**

CLOSING HYMN – “Sing a New World into Being” - Text: Mary Louise Bringle; Tune: Hymn to Joy (#4 in the New Century Hymnal)

Sing a new world into being,

sound a bold and hopeful theme.  
Find a tune for silent yearnings,  
lend your voice and dare to dream.  
Dream a church where all who worship  
find their lives and loves belong.

Sing a new world into being,

sing as Christ inspires your song.

Sing a new world into being,

where each gender class and race.  
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors  
to God's limitless embrace.  
Where the lines that once divided  
form instead the ties that bind.  
Sing a new world into being,

Risk transforming heart and mind.

Sing a new world into being,  
where the homeless find a home.  
Where no children ever hunger,  
but are filled with God's shalom.  
Where all people work for justice,  
where all hate and vengeance cease.  
Sing a new world into being,  
raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being,

Join the ancient prophets' cry.

For a time of health and plenty,  
when all tears have been wiped dry.  
When compassion flows like waters,  
pouring balm for all who grieve.  
Sing a new world into being,

live the promise you believe.

## **BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Church Musician typically picks the music.

## POSTLUDE