

# Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2019 – OPENING WORSHIP

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*CATAMARAN RESORT; SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA; Monday, September 30, 2019; 7:00pm*

## PRELUDE AND PROCESSION

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We begin our worship by praising and thanking our Lord for what he has first given us.

Lord, we thank you that you not only called us to be your servants in and leaders of your church but you also gave us the tools to be effective in serving you.

**We thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit, giving us the scriptures, and providing a strategy to guide us in our service to you.**

Thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit who accompanies us as we are sent to the church and the world in your name.

**We thank you that we are not left dependent on our own thinking and behaviors. The Holy Spirit puts new thoughts in our minds and an eagerness to learn in our hearts.**

Thank you for giving us the scriptures. The Apostle Paul tells us they are for our instruction.

**We thank you Lord for instructing us in the truth that all we have is yours.  
We thank you for instructing us that when we give to you we are giving back what is already yours.**

Thank you for setting the stage for financial stewardship by sharing the story of the Apostle Paul's strategy to bring an offering to the saints in Jerusalem.

**We thank you for Paul's plan that calls for intentionally setting aside financial resources to make possible ministries to a world that desperately needs to experience your love.**

**We thank you and sing your praises for all that you give to us: the Holy Spirit, the scriptures, and a strategy to be effective in your service.**

~~\* OPENING HYMN — "Gathered Here"~~

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Family in Faith: In spoken word and silent thought, I invite you to unfold your prayer to our God who is our shelter and our strength.

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Caring God, in our anxiousness we cling tightly to familiar people. Afraid to extend our hand, we bind up our gifts, fearing we won't have enough for ourselves. Lord, have mercy.

Silent prayer

Loving Jesus, lacking trust in you, we clutch our possessions as if they are the meaning of life. Our hesitancy to share stops the flow of your compassion. Lord, have mercy.

Silent prayer

Gracious spirit, we discount our ability and talents and miss what is possible when Christ blesses us. Caring God, have mercy.

Silent prayer

Holy God, loosen our closed hands and tight hearts that we may offer the gift we are and the gifts we have, to touch our broken world. Let your compassion flow through us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## \* WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: The love of God is broad like an ocean, And forgiveness flows to the very depths of our being. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

## \* SUNG RESPONSE GTG # 623 "I've Got Peace Like A River"

### WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of God, call to us with your holy calling. Inspire us with your powerful presence. Strengthen our faith with your holy word. In gratitude and trust, we pray. Amen.

## A READING OF PSALM 100:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;<sup>[a]</sup>

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW; CHAPTER 6, VERSES 19-21:

Listen to the words God would plant in your heart, today.

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

### RESPONSE

\* HYMN # 716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

- In a few moments, we’re inviting you to participate in an INTERACTIVE Offering sequence. We wanted to do this to offer you an experience in doing “offering” differently—in theory as well as practice. Offering is more than just receiving the money, efficiently! (i.e. passing the plates)
- We will invite you to use the center aisle to come forward and proceed through 4 stations beginning with Communion at the front, then moving around the outsides of the room on both sides.
- The first station is Communion—two stations, one on each side in the front to receive the communion elements and partake by intinction. The BREAD is gluten-free; and we are offering both wine and grape juice (the chalice with wine is identified by the green ribbon).
- You’ll proceed from Communion to the BLESSING STATION in the front corners. There you will find bowls of water—you’re invited to touch the water (if you wish...) to disturb, cup, lift, even throw the water or bless yourself with the sign of the cross; AND, someone will be there to offer a blessing for you. You don’t have to touch the water to receive a blessing; and if blessing’s not your thing, you can simply bypass the station.

- The Third Station is a CANDLE PRAYER BOARD, where you're invited to pick up a flame and add it to our candle as you offer your own prayer in silence.
- The last station is our GIVING STATION, where we want you to GIVE. You have a giving card and we want you to complete both sides of the card. You can place your cash or checks as well as your giving card at the table in the back of the room; YOU MAY ALSO USE THE CARD to access online giving. You can give online throughout the conference! And I would encourage you to try online giving, if you're not familiar with it, so you have more information about it when you get home!
- Your GIVING is expected to be MORE than just your money. The back of the giving card offers you the chance to make a gift when you get home—a gift of time or talent—and we want to capture these gifts as well and share with the conference participants in a follow-up email about all the ways we “gave.” To do this, we need you to write it down and put it in the offering plate BEFORE you leave worship—if you need more time to complete the card, you can put it in the plate right as you leave the worship space.

You'll notice we ask about how much you giving and how, about how you intend to give back home—but we don't ask for your name. **DON'T PUT YOUR NAME ON THE GIVING CARD!** Our plan is to send a follow up email with a list of the non-financial gifts. That is all. No hidden agenda. No one is going to see what you gave!

You may not remember all of these details or instructions. I'm counting on the people in the front to lead us, and that you can follow the person in front of you. As long as you stay in the room, you can't get lost!

## INTERPRETATION OF THE OFFERING

The conference offering is to be divided equally between the Presbytery of San Diego's PRESBYTERIAN URBAN MINISTRIES (PCUSA) and the WELCOME MINISTRY OF EL CAJON (ELCA).

### **Presbyterian Urban Ministries**

Located in the heart of San Diego, Presbyterian Urban Ministries (PUM) is dedicated to helping those in need with a focus on a hand up rather than just hand outs. Guided by Christ's mandate to serve with compassion and humility, PUM staff and volunteers offer prayers and counseling while connecting clients to a food pantry, donated clothing, job training, and transportation.

### **Welcome Ministry of El Cajon**

Proclaiming the hope and love of a gracious God to all people and especially to those experiencing homelessness. We welcome the faithful, the seeker, the curious and the doubter for God's embrace is wide and God's love and salvation are for All! We gather; we pray; we sing; we pass the peace; we receive Holy Communion; we have lunch together. We share the great fellowship of the Spirit – the same treasured fellowship that all experience when meeting in “housed” congregations. All receive the precious gift which none of us has earned, but which is given freely to all – a place at the Lord's Table.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

# THE STORY OF THE TABLE

[video goes here]

[Link: <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/do-lord-remember-me>]

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

This is not our table; it is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up you 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.**

Holy God, you made the world to hum in harmony; you listened, and you called it good.

In time we broke off from singing the song and went our own way, but you called us back and when the time was right you came in flesh and blood to live as one of us.

In Christ, dividing walls are broken down—no Jew or Greek, male and female, slave or free. You are there on every spectrum, in every color, at every table. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful in every time and place who forever sing in praise of your name:

**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 Lord's name Hosanna in the highest.**

By your Spirit, make us one. By your Spirit, make us whole. By your Spirit, make this bread and wine your body and blood, that we may know communion with you and with each other.

Take our hearts, our lives, our hands; mold us, change us, and send us out, that we may be your body in the world you so love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Note to presiders: The bread and cup should be lifted here, but not broken or poured.**

When Jesus was at table with his disciples, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat. Whenever you do this, remember me.

In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take and drink. Whenever you do this,

remember me.

Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us in the version or language closest to our hearts:

**Our Father/Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake.

[lifts and breaks the bread, saying:]

When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

[pours and lifts the cup, saying:]

When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

These are the gifts of God for the people of God  
**Thanks be to God**

## THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

[Communion is the first station, to be followed by 3 other "stations" where we're inviting conference participants to participate]

### **Station 1: Communion**

### **Station 2: Blessing**

Two stations, one on each side of the assembly; each station has two bowls of water and two "Bless-ers".

The Bless-ers invite the participants to touch, scoop, lift the water—or, they don't have to if they choose not to; as participants touch the water or not, Bless-ers offer this blessing:

"May the gifts of your baptism and this conference flow through your hands to bless others."

### **Station 3: PRAYER**

(adding a flame to the artwork)

### **Station 4: GIVE**

A table set up at the back with offering plates to receive cash/check/giving cards.

### **LAST THING: Volunteer Commitment Card for a project back home**

Have people pick up at giving station, or provide ahead of worship, people would make a commitment to volunteer time/talent in home setting—we would collect these (at giving station or passing offering vessels) and make a listing of all these “gifts” to be shared with participants in a follow-up email. (shows the impact of conference giving in other ways...)

HYMN # 522 “I am the Bread of Life”

HYMN # 526 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION / AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Faithful God, all that we have is because of You.

It is You that have given us the hands with which we work. It is You that have given us the minds with which we think. And it is You that has given us the world that we live in, filled with such plentiful resources.

Accept our offerings as a sign of our praise and gratitude for All that You have entrusted us with.  
Amen.

### **SENDING**

\* HYMN # 539 “We Will Go Out with Joy”

\* BENEDICTION & CHARGE

\* POSTLUDE

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### **WORSHIP NOTES:**

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