

(silent confession)

PARDON

Hear the good news - Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING OVER THE OIL

O God, the giver of health and salvation, we give thanks to you for this gift of oil. As your holy apostles anointed many who were sick and healed them, so pour out your Holy Spirit on us and this gift that those who in faith and repentance receive this anointing may be made whole through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS WITH ANOINTING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

Worshippers will receive Bread and Cup, then receive prayers for healing and laying on of hands as they desire. There is one station for Communion and two for prayer/laying on of hands.

COMMUNION HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light 206

HANDBELL CHOIR

O Come Emmanuel and Let All Mortal Flesh Be Silent

A PRAYER FOR HEALING COMMUNITY

Bless, O Lord, your people, who have walked too long in this night of pain. For the child has no more tears to cry, and the old people no song of joy to sing, and the blood of our youth drains away. The cries from pain and broken promises, from fractured relationships and violence are heard throughout the land. Terrible is the thirst in the mouth of the farmer; too many parents mourn the loss of their children; and all the earth is picked apart by greed and relentless consumption. With your Spirit, Lord, we cry for peace and mercy, justice and healing. With your Spirit, Lord, we long to be made whole.

HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 196

BLESSING AND GOING FORTH



RAYNE MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



December 19, 2021
5:00 pm

GREETING

Rev. Marissa Teauseau Horvath

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus, our Savior and Great Physician. We come to lift up our sisters and brothers before the Lord so that they might receive healing and that we might find comfort, support and care in our moments together. Let those who seek the Lord's healing open their hearts to the Spirit of the Lord.

(2 Peter 1:2, adapted)



CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lenda Faye Matthews

Many in this season are ready to sing "Joy to the World." Whether this is the first Christmas without someone we love, or we are still hurting from loss or suffering for a long time, we gather this evening, as darkness comes, to worship God in the midst of mourning. We gather to shed tears if they come, to hold hands if they are available, and to join our voices with one another and our forebears in the faith who still cry out, "How long?"

And so we lift our voices together:

Come, Holy Spirit. Comfort us and all who mourn this night. Give us strength to grieve as we must. Help us receive your healing in the midst of our pain, and find new order after the chaos of loss through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 211 (verses 1-4)

PRAYER

Rev. Jay Hogewood

*May the healing comfort of Christ Jesus surround you, embrace you and and comfort you. **And also to you.***

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, we trust that you can help us through afflictions of soul, mind and body. Please show forth your power upon each of us and all those in need. By your mercy, restore us to serve you with renewed spirit and in holiness of living, caring and loving.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *together*

SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTIONAL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Lenda Faye Matthews and Nancy Hopkins

For all who seek you for restoration, and all who eat the bread of sorrow...

O Lord, hear our prayer.

*For all who are sick, weak, or worn down... **O Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the sufferings of our ecosystems and our fellow creatures...

O Lord, hear our prayer.

*For all who are abused and afflicted, and all those imprisoned, especially for the sake of the gospel... **O Lord, hear our prayer.***

*For all who have experienced loss through death, separation, or the ending of relationships... **O Lord, hear our prayer.***

*For the gifts of faith, hope, and endurance... **O Lord, hear our prayer.***

*For the forgiveness of our sins... **O Lord, hear our prayer.***

Hear the prayers of your people, O God, forgiving our sins, and granting us and all for whom we pray the sure and certain knowledge of your saving love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God forever. Amen.

Forgiven people of God, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you. And also with you.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. (James 5:14-16)

CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace and healing. Come into the brokenness of our lives and our land with your loving kindness. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance and to bow to one another in real forgiveness. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love that casts out our fear and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.