

WORSHIP GUIDE: SUNDAY, 28 JUNE 2020

PREPARATION (spoken or sung)

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

TEH#85

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: With all our heart, we take refuge in God most high, who created all things, the merciful Father, Source of all goodness.

Church: **With all our heart, we take refuge in Christ, the Redeemer from sin, who restores our true nature, the perfect and mysterious Word.**

A L L: **With all our heart, we take refuge in the One who embraces the universe, who at all times and in all places responds to our needs, the pure and tranquil Holy Spirit.**

HYMN OF PRAISE SONGS OF PRAISE THE ANGELS SANG

TEH#33

- Songs of praise the angels sang, Heaven with alleluias rang,
When creation was begun, when God spake and it was done.
Songs of praise awoke the morn, When the Prince of Peace was born;
Song of praise arose when He, Captive led captivity,
Song of praise arose when He, Captive led captivity.*
- Saints below, with heart and voice, Still in songs of praise rejoice;
Learning here, by faith and love, Songs of praise to sing above.
Borne upon their latest breath, Songs of praise shall conquer death;
Then, amidst eternal joy, Songs of praise their powers employ,
Then, amidst eternal joy, Songs of praise their powers employ.*

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

O Lord our God, even as we gather before You in worship, You are always more ready to bestow Your good gifts on us than we are to seek them, and are willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Prepare our hearts and minds O Lord and help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of Your mercy may be opened to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

RESPONSE BE STILL MY SOUL

TEH#285

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide; In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly friend
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

“How much longer will you forget me, LORD? Forever? How much longer will you hide yourself from me? How long must I endure trouble? How long will sorrow fill my heart day and night? Look at me, O LORD my God, and answer me.” Let us come before God in humble repentance and confess our sin...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

We confess to You, all-knowing God, what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls. But we cannot hide our true selves from You. You know us as we are, and yet You love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge. Teach us to respect ourselves for Your sake. Give us the courage to put our trust in Your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask You to break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen. *(Moment of silent reflection and personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: I rely on Your constant love; I will be glad, because You will rescue me.

Church: **I will sing to You, O LORD, because You have been good to me.**

RESPONSE

BE STILL MY SOUL

TEH#285

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake To guide the future, as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

GREETINGS AND CHURCH CONCERNS

CHURCH AT PRAYER

RESPONSE

BE STILL MY SOUL

TEH#285

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament (responsively) Genesis 22:1-14;
New Testament Romans 6:12-23

THE ANTHEM

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD (see attached)

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (Romans 6:13)

"...give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes." Let us dedicate each day of our lives as an offering, pleasing and acceptable to God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Thank You Lord for setting us free from the bondage of sin. Give us the courage to be enslaved by Your righteousness that we may live truly free. Let our lives and the things we do from day to day testify that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Amen.

DECLARATION OF THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH (ARTICLE V)

We believe, that God is at work to make each person a new being in Christ and the whole world God's Kingdom in which love, justice, and peace prevail. That the Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

CLOSING HYMN

I SURRENDER ALL

TEH#194

*1. All to Jesus I surrender; All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.*

*Refrain: I surrender all, (I surrender all),
I surrender all, (I surrender all),
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

*2. All to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me, Jesus, take me now. (Refrain)*

*3. All to Jesus I surrender; Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine. (Refrain)*

*4. All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power; Let Thy blessing fall on me. (Refrain)*

*5. All to Jesus I surrender; Now I feel the sacred flame.
Oh, the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to His name! (Refrain)*

CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

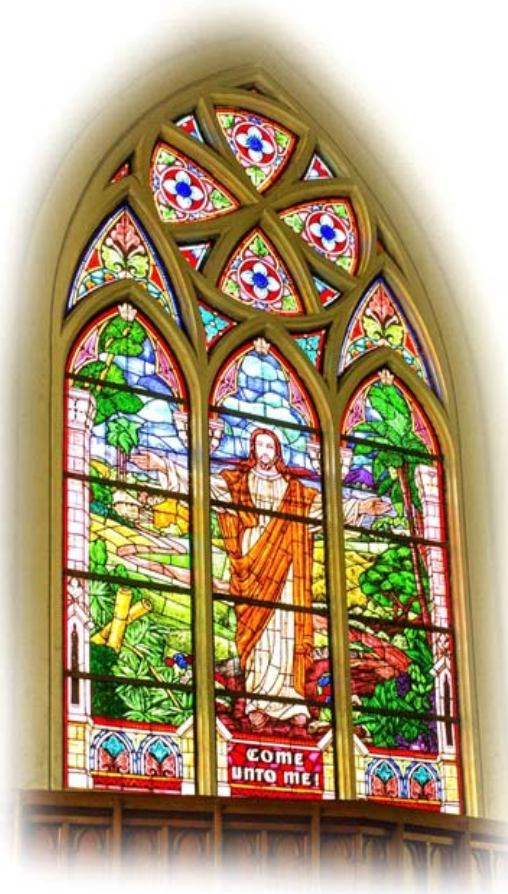
RESPONSE



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES
ELLINWOOD-MALATE CHURCH**



28 June 2020



**THE HOLY SPIRIT
HELPS US TO
SURRENDER OUR
LIVES TO GOD**

4th Sunday after Pentecost

English Liturgy

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“DEAD TO SIN, SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS”

Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23

Blessed Sunday beloved in Christ.

Today, is the fourth Sunday after Pentecost. It was during Pentecost that the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the other disciples after Jesus Christ ascended. Pentecost marks the beginning of the Christian Church. We, the Church today, continue our mission of sharing Christ’s saving grace and love into the world. And this Pentecost season, we are constantly reminded of God’s great gift to us – His presence through the Holy Spirit.

Because of the Corona Virus pandemic, we, including our global community, now better understand the terms “lockdown” and “quarantine,” We have to obey strict rules implemented in our barangays, local government units and going up to our national government laws and guidelines that we need to follow in order to protect our lives and health as we fight Covid 19.

Our “freedom” has been curtailed and we now have an idea of what it means to be “enslaved” or “controlled” in our daily existence; to live under the control of someone, or something.

During Paul’s time as he was writing this book, the Roman Empire continued to grow bigger as it conquered many lands. Lots of people were brought back to Rome as prisoners of war. They became slaves and at that time, these slaves comprised 16%-33% of Italy’s population. They were owned by the master of a household; or they were working in farms, or in the government. And Paul’s ministry drew heavily these people: the slaves, the poor, the downcast.

It is in this context that Apostle Paul helps us to understand what it means to be a slave. We can be slaves to sin: of greed and corruption, of vices and different forms of addiction that represent the cravings of the sinful man, the lust of the eyes, the boasting of what he has and does (I John 2:16). We can choose to live as slaves to sin, resulting in death, or choosing to be the “slaves of our Lord Jesus Christ” who redeemed us from sin by His precious blood and gave His life on the cross for our ransom.

A custom of the natives in New Guinea is told. At certain times, they have rituals, songs, and dances. They work themselves up into a frenzy and the ritual culminates in what are called “*the murder songs*,” in which they shout before God the names of the people they wish to kill. When the natives became Christian, they retained these customs and that ritual. However, in the murder songs, they no longer shouted the names of the people they hated, **but the names of the sins they hated, and called on God to destroy them**. A pagan custom had been captured for Christ (*Source Unknown*).

(Oh, during this pandemic, we can use this ritual as something humorous and funny when, God forgive us, we wish to recite the names of so many people around us whom we wish to include in this “hit list” song. But since we are Christians, let us learn from these natives of New Guinea, that we recite and denounce the evil and hateful acts that these people bring to our nation, and maybe the same goes to those in other nations...)

Paul explains to us earlier (vs. 1-11) that in our baptism into the Christian faith, we have been born again; we became new creatures—we died with Christ and were resurrected to new life with Him. We therefore must consider ourselves “dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v. 11).

We are reminded of the new life that we now have in our union with Jesus Christ. It would now be inappropriate and unethical for us to continue living

in sin, and being slaves to sin. Paul emphasized this when he boldly proclaimed, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith, in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

We no longer surrender our power to Satan to tempt and fool us, to convict and destroy us, and to rob us of our right as heirs of God. We have been justified and redeemed by our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Dr. Ralph Wilson said, “Slaves do what they’re told. But sin doesn’t “own” you anymore; God owns you now. You no longer have to sin! So give yourself wholeheartedly to serving God. You can do this!” This means we have the freedom to choose to obey and surrender our lives to God. This then, will lead us to joy in following Him as we live for Him each day.

And if along the way, we fail and sin against Him, God has given us the “antidote” so that we will not be deceived by the enemy. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (First John 1:9).

Let us sing our spiritual remedy when we sin before God, when we hurt our fellow human beings, and even ourselves: From our Ellinwood Hymnal, #274, we may sing (or recite the two stanzas, if the hymn is unfamiliar) “If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today:”

*If I have wounded any soul today:
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own wilful way, Dear Lord, forgive.*

*Forgive the sins that I have now confessed,
Forgive the secret sins I do not see;
O guide me, love me and my Keeper be, A-men, Amen.*

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life of righteousness in response to God’s amazing grace. Let us consider ourselves “dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v. 11).

We are now slaves, not of sin leading to death and destruction, but slaves to righteousness, serving God and obeying Him. Let us be like Abraham, the man of faith who did not waver when God asked him to offer his son Isaac as an offering. Let us offer our lives as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – which is our spiritual act of worship.

Let us give our pledge of loyalty to God. May the Holy Spirit help us to stand firm and enable us to present our whole selves to be used by God as His channels of blessings and weapons of righteousness. Amen.