



## **Palo Duro Presbytery, 155<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### **Worship**

#### **New Hope Presbyterian Church Wichita Falls, Texas**

Pastor Sara Core  
The Reverend Don Stribling  
The Reverend Drew Travis  
The Reverend Cathy Reed  
Elder Friederike Wiedemann

# Order for the Worship of God

## Gathering of God's People in Praise and Contemplation

**Prelude:** Meditate and ready your mind for Word and Worship. "Let Us Build a House" by Marty Haugen, 2004, arranged by Jason Mincy

**Welcome, Business Announcements, Poetry:** "A Terrible Prayer," by Michael Yaconelli, 2000

I have always been terrible at praying

I forget.

My mind wanders.

I fall asleep.

I don't pray enough.

I don't understand what prayer does.

If prayer were school...

I would flunk praying.

But prayer isn't school.

It is mystery...

Maybe the mystery is...

Jesus loves terrible prayers.

Maybe...

When I can't think of anything to say, he says what I can't say

When I talk too much, he cherishes my too-many words.

When I fall asleep, he holds me in his lap and caresses my weary soul.

When I am overwhelmed with guilt at my inconsistent, inadequate praying

He whispers, 'your name is always on my lips.'

I am filled with gratitude, my soul overflows with thankfulness and I...

I...find myself saying over and over again, 'thank you.'

Praying the mystery.

**The Call to Worship:** Psalm 40:1-11

**Leader:** I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods! Thou hast multiplied, O Lord my God, thy wondrous deeds and thy thoughts toward us; none can compare with thee!

**Body of Christ:** **Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering thou dost not desire; but thou hast given me an open ear.**

**Leader:** Burnt offering and sin offering thou hast not required. Then I said, "Lo, I come; in the roll of the book it is written of me; I delight to do thy will, O my God; thy law is within my heart." I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; lo, I have not restrained my lips, as thou knowest, O Lord. I have not hid thy saving help within my heart.

**Body of Christ:** **As for me, I am poor and needy but the Lord takes thought for me. Thou art my help and my deliverer. Do not tarry, O my God!**

**\*Hymn:** "Gather Us In" Hymnal #401

**New Testament Reading:** Matthew 17:1-9 and Acts 2:42-47

**Unison Prayer of Confession:** **God of Mercy, You are our God. Many of us do not believe what Jesus says about confession. It is too much, too good to admit our sins and somehow it transfers our guilt to you. Jesus' sacrificial death frees us from the death we deserve. Forgive us. Restore us. Love us. We come nearby as your disciples and we pray silently in and through Jesus Christ:**

**Quiet Contemplation and Confession. Amen.**

**Assurance of Grace:**

**Leader:** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life [John 3:16]"*

**People:** **Because of God's great love for us in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**\*Glory Be to the Father #581**

**Sharing of Joys, Hopes and Concerns; Pastoral Prayers of the People; Lord's Prayer #16 in the front of the hymnal**

## Meditating on and Responding to God's Word

**Anthem:** "Above All Else" written by Joel Raney, 2016

**An Introduction with Reve. Don Stribling and the Proclamation of the Word, Text and Title:** Matthew 17:1-9 and Acts 2:42-47, "Our Common Life" with The Reverend Drew Travis

**Offertory and Doxology:** "Called as Partners in Christ Service" #761. Plate offering goes to PDA response to the tornado disasters.

**Communion Open to All:** Table Service of Bread and Cup as we listen to "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by John Wyeth performed by Jake Farr and A.J. Allegretto.

## Sending Outside the Church Walls to Serve Others in Christ's Name

\*Choral Benediction from Revelation 19

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\*Please stand only if you are able. Hearing devices available at entry table. Childcare available. The Great Room has speakers for overflow and restless children just in case.

**Art and theological reflection:** This black and white stark photo of a homeless man helps wrestle with the Word in Matthew 17 and Acts 2. The church's venture into the faith is a relational one. Relationship between God and ourselves; between those of faith who are in the church; between the church and the rest of the world of God's children.