

# Who is the Prodigal?

Muskingum Valley Presbytery

# Call to Worship

As we gather in this place,

let us strain our ears to hear the rush of wind, the crackle pop of fire.

**We listen for your call, God of spirit and flame.**

**We take our place in your unfolding creation.**

Rejoice, for God's spirit flows among us!

Rejoice, for today the church embraces transformation.

**In the midst of rebirth, we join our voices in praise!**

**Let us worship God.**

# Opening Prayer

God is Here

GTG #409

God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.

Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit,  
here the cross has central place.

Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.

Call to Confession

# Prayer of Confession

God, you invite us to wonder.

**We confess that we find more comfort in the mundane.**

**We lean into the familiar and treat the amazing as suspicious or even threatening.**

**We long for a routine to keep us safe from pain,**

**and we're willing to give up joy in exchange.**

**Reshape our hearts for possibility, O God.**

**Awaken our senses to your wonders work in the world,  
and give us the courage and will to follow you.**

# Assurance of Grace

The psalmist writes,

**“O Lord, how manifold are your works!**

**In wisdom you have made them all;**

**the earth is full of your creatures.**

When you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.”**

It is through this same creative, renewing Spirit that we experience God's grace.

**We give thanks as a renewed, forgiven people.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

# Prayer of Illumination

# Luke 15

The grass withers and the flower fades;

**but the word of our God stands forever**

# Who is the Prodigal?

Matt Aragon Bruce

# Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;**

**the holy catholic church;**

**the communion of the saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body;**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The King of Love My Shepherd  
Is

GTG #802

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faith never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leads,  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreads a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

Invitation, Offering, Offertory, &  
Doxology

# Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, we dedicate our time and treasure to you for the good of your whole creation, which even now you are still enacting. We pray that you will multiply these humble gifts toward a future of greater justice, flourish, and joy. Amen.**

On Bread, One Body

GTG #530

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

# Holy Communion

Lift up your 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 Communion

# Go to the World

GTG #295

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.

Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's  
worth,

baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.

Go to the world! Go into every place.

Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.

Go seek God's presence in each time and space.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"

# Blessing and Charge