Order of Service

Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope
Our Christian Witness to Refugees and Immigrants
(without Eucharist / Holy Communion)
Created by The Reverend Lisa M. Weaver, Ph.D. (cand.)

We Gather for Worship
Prelude and Silent Prayers
Call to Worship
[Opening] [Processional] Hymn
Invocation / Collect / Opening Prayer
Gathering Statement
Confession [silent, then corporate]
Kyrie
Absolution / Words of Assurance & Pardon
Response [musical]
Peace
Prayers of the People / Intercessions / Morning Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer
Morning hymn [congregational]
[Music ministry]

We Listen to and Respond to God’s Word
[introduction of guest preacher/speaker and sentences before Scripture reading]
First reading [Old Testament]
Psalter reading
Second reading [Epistle]
Gospel
Hymn [pre sermonic / preparation / illumination]
Homily / Sermon / Message
[Invitation to Christian Discipleship]
Affirmation of Christian Faith [Apostles’ Creed / Nicene Creed]
Offering and Offertory
Statement of Witness & Advocacy
Litany

We Go Forth to Serve God and Humanity
Closing prayer
Closing hymn
Benediction
Postlude

*items in red are rubrical and not intended to be printed.
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Affirmation of Christian Faith [Apostles’ Creed or Nicene Creed]
Offering and Offertory
Statement of Witness & Advocacy and Charge
Litany

We Come to the Lord’s Table: The Eucharist / Holy Communion
Presentation and Preparation of the Bread and Wine
The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord’s Prayer
Invitation to the Table [or “the Feast”]
Breaking of the Bread
Distribution of Bread and Wine
Post-Communion Prayer
Hymn or Song

We Go Forth to Serve God and Humanity
Closing prayer
Closing hymn
Benediction
Postlude
Spoken Service Elements
Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope
Our Christian Witness to Refugees and Immigrants
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Calls to Worship

Option #1 (litany)
Leader: Hear, O people of God, and declare that the Lord is our God.
People: Our Lord is, indeed, God, the One who is creator of heaven and earth and all who dwell in it.
Leader: We gather in response and gratitude to God’s invitation and love for us.
People: We’ve come to worship the God who created us and all humanity like Adam and Eve, in God’s image and in God’s likeness.
Leader: So let us now worship our great God.
People: To the God of love and justice and peace we lift up our hearts and minds in worship.
Leader: For even in the midst of injustice and oppression, this is still the day that the Lord has made.
People: And we shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Option #2 (psalter)
Psalm 9:7-12
(7) …the Lord sits enthroned forever, he has established his throne for judgment.
(8) He judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with equity.
(9) The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
(10) And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.
(11) Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion. Declare his deeds among the peoples.
(12) For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

And as we gather in solidarity and witness with all Christians who seek to protect welcome and restore hope in this country — for the immigrant, the refugee, the sojourner, for any and all who would come — let us lift our hearts and minds to worship God and listen for what the Word of God and the [Holy] Spirit will challenge and charge us to do.
Option #3 (psalter)
Psalm 68:1-6a

(1) Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

(2) As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

(3) But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

(4) Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds — his name is the Lord — be exultant before him.

(5) Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

(6) God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity….

And as we gather in solidarity and witness with all Christians who seek to protect welcome and restore hope in this country — for the immigrant, the refugee, the sojourner, for any and all who would come — let us lift our hearts and minds to worship God and listen for what the Word of God and the [Holy] Spirit will challenge and charge us to do.

Option #4 (psalter)
Psalm 146:1, 2, 5-7a, 8b-10

(1) Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

(2) I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

(5) Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

(6) who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

(7a) who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

(8b) The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

(9) The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

(10) The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

And as we gather in solidarity and witness with all Christians who seek to protect welcome and restore hope in this country — for the immigrant, the refugee, the sojourner, for any and all who would come — let us lift our hearts and minds to worship God and listen for what the Word of God and the [Holy] Spirit will challenge and charge us to do.
Opening Prayers
Created by The Reverend Lisa M. Weaver, Ph.D. (cand.)

Collect

Most gracious and most merciful God, You whose compassion and love flow extravagantly to all humanity, manifest Your presence afresh in this place so that we may rightly worship you, breathe on Your people here assembled so that we may both hear and heed what the Spirit is saying to the church, and as we leave this place today, grant us the courage and strength to bravely and boldly live and do what we have been charged and challenged to do. This we pray through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever. Amen.

Invocation

Gracious, loving, and just God. We bless You for every good and perfect gift You have bestowed on us up to this present moment. As we have gathered today in faith to worship, we also pause to pray and lift up immigrants, refugees, sojourners and all who are displaced from their native homes and loving families. Even as we lament and grieve the injustice, pain, and suffering of our sisters and brothers in the human family — immigrants, refugees, and sojourners of different lands, faiths, and languages — we come to offer our praise and thanksgiving to You. We have come to be found in Your presence, to make our petitions known, and to intercede for the needs of the whole human family. We have also come to hear what the Spirit has to say to the church, to hear what You will say to us. As we gather today in solidarity and witness with all Christians who seek to protect welcome and restore hope in this country and this world, manifest Your presence afresh in this place. Breathe on us so that we may both hear and heed what the Spirit is saying to us at a time such as this. And as we leave this place today, grant us the courage and strength to bravely and boldly live and do what we have been charged and challenged to do. We offer this prayer with hope, expectancy, and thanksgiving through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever. Amen.
The theme of our worship service today is “Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope: Our Christian Witness to Refugees and Immigrants.” We were invited by Church World Service and the National Council of Churches to take one Sunday to be in solidarity with other Christian churches in making a public statement regarding this important issue. The change in the presidential administration this past January has brought with it an ethos and accompanying legislative actions that attempt to unfairly target communities and populations who are not Christian and who are not American. These legislative attempts, by executive order and other mechanisms, are contrary to the hospitable welcome that been part of the character of this country and are in direct contradiction to the Gospel mandate on how we as Christians are to welcome and provide hospitality to the immigrant, stranger, and sojourner who comes in our midst. So our lections (Scripture readings), music, prayers, and litany center around what God says and how God feels about all those who are often identified as “the other,” along with our Gospel responsibility to them. More will be said later about this. Now, listen with your ear and with your spirit for what God has to say to us, individually and collectively.
Option #1

God of Justice, Might, and Love, You who are close to those who suffer and mourn and grieve. We confess that we have sometimes let the suffering in our lives eclipse our view of Your glory and our sense of Your joy. We also confess that sometimes we have let our personal suffering numb us to the suffering of others in the world. We forget that You, too, grieve for those whom You have made in Your image ~ the immigrant, the refugee, the sojourner, the orphan, the widow, the poor, and the oppressed. You, too, grieve the oppression they suffer, the injustices they experience, the indignities they endure. You grieve because these realities are the result of another human being’s actions or the oppressive and unjust systems human beings create. God, just as You join us in our suffering, we join You in Your suffering for Your world and Your people, for this is not Your will or Your heart.

We repent for being silent when we should have spoken, for watching when we should have helped, for closing our eyes when we should have opened our hearts. We sit in stillness before You, O God, and we lament. Forgive us, O God, and have mercy upon us. Grant us the strength and the courage to be in solidarity with You to bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, release those in bondage, let the oppressed go free, comfort those who mourn, build up people, heal communities, and repair the cities. This we pray in the strong name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Option #2 (from the Book of Common Prayer)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Option #3 (from the Book of Common Prayer, with slight word changes)

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful God, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.
Option #4 (from Chalice Worship of The Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, Confession #278)

We confess, Lord, that we have not loved you or our neighbor as we should.

We have often neglected opportunities of good; sometimes we have done actual harm.

Our consciences accuse of over trifles, but let us blithely ignore your weightier demands.

We know that a mere apology will not do.

We resolve to turn from the sins we know.

We ask you to show us the sins we do not recognize.

We resolve to forgive any who have wronged us; and to seek reconciliation with any from whom we are estranged.

And now we beg your pardon and ask your help.

Option #5 (from Chalice Worship of The Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, Confession #286)

Living God, you have made us in your image and we, both willfully and helplessly, have marred that image in us. You have charged us to be the evidence of your presence with humanity, and we have made you seem far away, uncaring, unnecessary. You have made us for each other so that no human being should be left alone, and we have neglected, hurt, and abused our fellow men and women. Though we have marred your image, hidden you from other people’s faith and failed to unite the human family, continue to have mercy on us and to give us hope through our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.
Absolution / Words of Assurance & Pardon
Created by The Reverend Lisa M. Weaver, Ph.D. (cand.)

Option #1 (from the Book of Common Prayer)

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

    strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal
    life. Amen.

Option #2 (from the Book of Common Prayer)

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true


Option #3 (1 John 1:9)

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all

    unrighteousness.
As we hear the Sacred Scriptures, let us be attentive and listen to how God feels about the foreigner, the immigrant, the refugee — the “other.” And let us listen for God’s prescriptions for their treatment and our responsibility therein.
Let us pray for a fresh outpouring of God’s Spirit so that we, as Christ’s church, may be freshly equipped and strengthened to continue to offer radical hospitality for any and all people who enter our country and our lives.

Holy God, as You have done in times past, breathe afresh on Your church today that each member may proclaim and live, in word and deed, the liberating Gospel of Your son Jesus Christ.

Response: Holy God, hear our prayer.

Loving God, move in the world in such a way that each person’s heart is seized by Your love, astounded by Your glory, and drawn to Your salvation.

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, we lift to You the immigrant, the refugee, the widow, the orphan, and all members of the human family who are displaced, away from family and friends and the place they called home. Thank You for the hope they still have in this country and the people who live in this country. Continue to shape our hearts and postures to be welcoming and hospitable to these sojourners who enter our lives. May they see You in us, and may they experience Your holy hospitality through our service to them.

Response: Compassionate God, hear our prayer.

Mighty God, we intercede for those individuals who are on the front lines of serving immigrants, refugees, widows, orphans, the poor, the homeless, the hungry, those in prison and all members of the human family in any kind of need. We thank You for their tireless work. We ask that You would strengthen them, send them aid and relief to continue to do this holy work, and give them wisdom to take rest and respite for themselves. As they serve and pour out their energy and spirits in service, restore and replenish them.

Response: Mighty God, hear our prayer.

Righteous God, so that the dignity of all human beings is a reality everywhere and at all times, we pray that the wind of Your divine justice destroy every yoke and fetter of individual and institutional oppression. We pray that you will touch and change the minds and hearts of leaders and legislators to see Your image in those who are marginalized and oppressed. Touch their eyes to recognize and regard the common humanity of all and work that all may live with dignity and honor.

Response: Righteous God, hear our prayer.
Omniscient God, we pray for those who have been called to govern nations and institutions, for those who set procedure, policy, and protocol. Grant them new vision inspired by Your holy wisdom and Your just counsel, so that all human being are treated justly and with dignity.

Response: Omniscient God, hear our prayer.

Holy God, grant that Your church be strengthened in every good word and work, to be the light, salt, and witness for which this world hungers and thirsts.

Response: Holy God, hear our prayer.

Eternal God, You whose Spirit has been at work from the hovering over the primordial waters to this present day, grant these petitions so that Your holy church, anointed afresh by Your Spirit, may be bold instruments of comfort, healing, safety, hospitality, justice, and peace everywhere. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Statement of Witness and Advocacy
Created by The Reverend Lisa M. Weaver, Ph.D. (cand.)

Church World Service and the National Council of Churches thank you for taking this Sunday to highlight our focus of “Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope: Our Christian Witness to Refugees and Immigrants.” As early as the nineteenth century, in 1893 with the Parliament of World Religions, and continuing through the subsequent centuries, Christians have been involved in all aspects of the work of interfaith dialogue and justice. Organizations and institutions have worked to foster understanding, regard, and respect for all members of the human family, regardless of their faith tradition and beliefs. So our work in this regard is not new; rather, it is the continuation of a long witness of advocacy, solidarity, and mission to promote justice, equality, and peace for and among all members of the human community. And while our work is not new, it is informed by an ethic older than any human institution. Church World Service and the National Council of Churches understand that as Christians, our impetus and responsibility for the work of advocacy, solidarity, and mission to other members of the human family is informed by biblical mandate and witness that God has outlined clearly in the Sacred Scriptures. Since the time of Christ, advocacy, solidarity, and mission have always been the responsibility and privilege of the Christian. In our current political and global climate, the weight and urgency of that responsibility is even greater.

This ecumenical declaration “Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope: Our Christian Witness to Refugees and Immigrants” was borne in response to the president’s executive order banning individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries — Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, and Somalia. We at Church World Service and the National Council of Churches were compelled by our great Gospel that this ban was both historically inconsistent with the ethos of welcome this country heretofore had and theologically inconsistent with the Gospel mandate that the Christian has to welcome and be hospitable to the “other” — the immigrant, the refugee, the orphan, the widow, the poor, the homeless, the marginalized — the sojourner in our midst. And we could not be silent about it. We felt and continue to feel compelled to make a public declaration of who we are as Christians, who God has called us to be, and how God has called us...
to respond to these legislative measures. We are called to speak truth to power and let our elected officials and all government leaders know that this is not the proper or Christian response to people in crisis and need. However, we cannot do the mighty work of advocacy alone. We cannot be the voice and witness of Christ by ourselves and have the impact that is needed and desired. So we invite and implore you to join us in our efforts to help us do as our theme states: protect welcome and restore hope to immigrants and refugees who seek refuge and home and safety and shelter and protection in our country, in our communities, and in our neighborhoods. There are several ways you can be in solidarity with us and join our efforts. You can volunteer your time and energy at a nearby refugee resettlement office, building long-lasting relationships with refugees who are rebuilding their lives. You can educate your family, neighbors and community members about the importance of refugee resettlement and the many ways that refugees and immigrants contribute to their communities. You can write an opinion editorial or letter to the editor of your local newspaper, and utilizing social media. You can take action by calling, writing and meeting with your local, state and national policy makers, so that they know their constituents stand with immigrants and refugees. And you can donate to Church World Service to help preserve and strengthen the life-saving work of refugee resettlement.

We ask that you pray for us in our efforts to protect welcome and restore hope by being the living demonstration of Christ’s welcome and hospitality in the world. We ask that you pray for those who will join us in our efforts. We ask that you pray and ask God to show you the best way and place for you to join us in this work. We are thankful to the leadership of this church and all of you for being Christ in the world, for being the church, and lifting up our brothers and sisters of the human family who are being unjustly marginalized and inhospitably treated.

Let us now read our Litany of Welcome and Hope
**Litany of Welcome and Hope**
Created by The Reverend Lisa M. Weaver, Ph.D. (cand.)

Leader: Gracious, Merciful, Loving and Welcoming God, we acknowledge that You have made all humanity in Your image and likeness, and we bless You for the great gift of reflecting Your glory.

People: God, thank You for imprinting Your image not only on me but on all women and men and girls and boys around the world.

Leader: We confess, God, that we have not always been as welcoming and hospitable to our neighbors as You have been to us.

People: Forgive us for falling short of being Your example and witness in the world.

Leader: Thank You, God, for the gift and grace of Your divine forgiveness.

People: Thank You, God, for once again making us ready for work and worship in the world and to humanity.

Leader: Open our eyes anew to see the immigrant, the refugee, the orphan, the widow, the poor, the homeless, the hungry, those in prison, and all in need as members of our family.

People: Help us, O Lord, to treat them as we would treat ourselves, with loving kindness and tender care.

Leader: Grant us the wisdom to discern what is needed.

People: Grant us the heart and hospitality to serve without having to be asked, seeking to be recognized, or expecting to be compensated.

Leader: Lead us to people in need and places of lack

People: so that we may give and share out of the abundance that You have given us.

Leader: Give us courage and boldness

People: to speak truth to power and speak out against injustice

Leader: to fight for equity and fairness

People: and safety and shelter.

Leader: Gracious God, we ask that You grant us the strength, spirit, courage, boldness and wisdom to continue this holy work of advocacy, solidarity, and mission to all whom You have created until your righteous and just kingdom is manifest on earth. We offer this prayer in the name of Christ. Amen.
**Hymns for**

*Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope*
*Our Christian Witness to Refugees and Immigrants*

Hymns have been selected by The Reverend Lisa M. Weaver, Ph.D. (cand.) for their thematic resonances. Several of these hymns are set and/or can be sung to familiar hymn tunes. Additionally, some hymns can fit in more than one category.

**Hymns**

Abana (The Lord’s Prayer) ~ This is the most beautiful rendition of The Lord’s Prayer that I have ever heard. For any congregation that has a strong choir and the resources to purchase the music, it is absolutely worth getting.

As A Fire Is Meant for Burning
As the Waters Rise around Us
Father, Who in Jesus Found Us
For the Healing of the Nations
Give Us a Voice
God of Freedom, God of Justice
God of Grace and God of Glory
God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
God, You Call Us to This Place
In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful
Koinonia (How Can I Say That I Love the Lord)
Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness
O God, Your Justice Towers
O God, Whose Healing Power
Praise God for the World (A Doxology for Life Now)
Risen, Lord, We Gather Round You
Sing A New Church
Sing A New World into Being
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound
The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
This We Can Do for Peace and for Justice
Too Often, God, Your Name Is Used
When a Prophet Sings of Justice
Who Will Speak a Word of Warning
**Hymn category recommendations**
Compiled by The Reverend Lisa M. Weaver, Ph.D. (cand.)

**Processional hymn**
God of Grace and God of Glory

**Morning hymn**
As A Fire Is Meant for Burning
God of Freedom, God of Justice
God, You Call Us to This Place
O God, Your Justice Towers
Sing A New Church
Sing A New World into Being

**Prayer hymn**
As the Waters Rise around Us
For the Healing of the Nations
Give Us a Voice
O God, Whose Healing Power

**Choruses and Refrains**
*(good for responses)*
In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful
Koinonia (How Can I Say That I Love the Lord)
The Kingdom of God

**Doxologies**
Praise God for the World

**Illumination / Pre sermonic**
Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness

**Post-communion**
Father, Who in Jesus Found Us
Risen, Lord, We Gather Round You

**Advocacy / Justice**
Give Us a Voice
Too Often, God, Your Name Is Used
Who Will Speak a Word of Warning
When a Prophet Sings of Justice

**Charge**
Sing A New Church
This We Can Do for Justice and for Peace

**Closing / Sending / Commissioning**
As A Fire Is Meant for Burning
God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound
The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve