

Welcome and Statement of Purpose.....Rev. Josh Powers

Choral Call to Worship ...“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”Congregation

**Lord, listen to your children praying;
Lord send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Call to Worship.....Rev. Howard McLaurin

Leader: O God, Creator of heaven and earth,

All: Have mercy upon us.

O God, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O God, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy upon us.

From all hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word and commandment by thought,
word, or deed,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all terror, oppression, violence, and murder, and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

That it may please you to bring into the way of truth all such as have grievously erred,
are deceived, and whose hearts and minds are shackled by rage and evil intent,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you so to rule the hearts of all in authority, that they may do justice,
and love mercy, and walk and speak in the ways of truth,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to make all wars, those far away and those close to home, to cease
in all the world; to give to all nations and communities unity, peace, and concord;
and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to preserve all who are in danger by reason of the color of their skin,
ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or any other difference from ourselves,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to preserve, and provide for, young children and orphans, the widowed,
and all whose homes are broken or torn by the strife and pain of blind hatred, racism, sexism,
and all other *-isms*.

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences,
and ignorances; and to endure us with the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives
according to your holy Word,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and terrorists, and to turn their hearts,
and our own, to forgiveness, compassion, and love,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

And for all whose names are not yet known to us. Grant a miracle of comfort and peace to those
who love them,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

O God, our Refuge and our Strength, in the face of fearsome foes, intolerance, and tragedy,
in suffering and in joy, let us remember to always turn first to you with our faith strong and our
hearts wide open. We ask these things through your Son Jesus, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit,
our Comforter, who together with You are One Holy and Eternal God from before the beginning
until beyond the end. **Amen.**

-Adapted from the BCP Great Litany by Christina Brennan Lee

Song ... “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”(insert).....Congregation

ConfessionReadings from **Psalm 51: 3-17**

Reconciliation.....Readings from **Matthew 18: 21-22** and **2nd Corinthians 5:17-21**

*All congregants are encouraged to write on a slip of paper
a few failings on our part, what we have done or failed to do.*

*After that, on a second slip of paper,
please write down who and what we must forgive.*

Song ... “How Long?”Community Choir

Responsive Reading

Leader: From giving up the old, we will contribute to new life and growth.
Let us ask the Lord for mercy.

**All: Forgive us our sins, O Lord, and help us find the strength and courage
to forgive others. Create in us a renewed spirit.**

Leader: Please tear up the papers in as small pieces as possible.
Come forward to plant these as we all pour in dirt to plant new life
that can bloom as a sign of hope.

*All congregants are invited to bring up pieces of paper
and put them into the planting pots around the plants.*

Leader: Let us thank the Lord for the promise of new life.

Prayer for our Commitment

We give thanks to you, Lord of Life, for this opportunity of renewal.

**May we join with all others who celebrate life
in re-committing ourselves to walk in yours ways of forgiveness.**

**May we lift our eyes towards hope for ourselves
and for all our brothers and sisters.**

**May we open our hearts to all in the human community,
and may our intentions and actions
help create your Kingdom of justice and peace. Amen.**

**Song ... “Let There Be Peace On Earth”Congregation
(Choir through once, then congregation)**

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

BenedictionRev. Josh Powers



Community Service for Hope & Renewal

August 14, 2016

6:00 PM

East Montgomery High School