**ORDER OF WORSHIP – March 27, 2022 US Congregations**

***Announcements and the Passing of the Peace may be placed according to the custom of the congregation. Hymn numbers are given for Glory to God (GtG) and The Presbyterian Hymnal (PH)***

**Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 95)

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

***All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving***

***and praise God with music and song.***

**Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy (*GtG* # 1; *PH* # 138)

**Opening Prayer**

Leader: Lord, our God, we trust your promise

to be among us as we gather.

We come in the name of Christ,

drawn by your Spirit,

eager to hear your Word.

Fill our hearts with your Spirit

and prepare us for faithful service.

***All: Amen.***

**Prayer of Confession**

Leader: We cannot come before God

unless we are first honest with ourselves

about who we are,

about the mistakes we make,

and about how well or poorly we care for others.

In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

***All:*** ***Dear Lord, life ambushes us; this broken world sidetracks and distracts us;***

***it is full of temptations and terrors, and we fall at times,***

***frequently, daily, sometimes hour by hour.***

***We are hungry for satisfaction, for a quick fix, for an escape.***

***Have mercy on us, O God, according to your extraordinary kindness and compassion.***

***We offer you all that we are: our mistakes, our falling short, our regrets,***

***our strengths and weaknesses, disasters and triumphs;***

***our moments of following you, and our moments of meandering.***

***Please deal with our wrongdoing, heal the past and lift the guilt.***

***You offer forgiveness, hope, and a fresh start.***

***Because of you, because of your love, and because of all you have done,***

***we thank you – in the name of your compassionate and courageous Son. Amen.***

(A time of silent prayer)

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Hear the good news!

Know that in Jesus,

God embraces you, forgives you,

and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

***All: Thanks be to God.***

**Response:** Precious Lord, Take My Hand, verse 1 (GtG # 834); PH # 404)

**Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Prepare our hearts, O God,

to hear your Word

and obey your will.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

***All: Amen.***

**Scripture reading**  2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Hymn:** New Songs of Celebration Render (GtG #371; PH #218)

**Scripture reading** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Sermon**

**Hymn:** Help Us Accept Each Other (GtG #754; PH #358)

**Apostles' Creed**

**Prayers of the People (Thanksgiving and Intercessions)**

Holy and Gracious God

You, the one of prodigal grace  
We give you thanks for the gift of life  
and for the blessings of this life,

for family and friends and

love abundant.

Lead us through the trials  
the suffering and sorrow  
the challenges and struggles  
the tired time, despair and bleak places,

back to you, and

love abundant.   
  
Be with those who weep  
or cannot sleep  
who have no peace  
who seek release

and comfort them with

love abundant.  
  
Fill us with hope,

sustained in your mercy,  
with patience and stamina

upheld by your Holy Spirit

in your prodigal grace. 

We give you thanks for partnership

between the Czech and American churches.

Renew our contacts after this pandemic time.

Give us inspiration for future cooperation.

We pray for reconciliation for the deeply

divided societies in both our countries.

Transform us and all our broken ways,

transform us that we can be made whole

And in wholeness may we be  
the hands and heart of Christ. Amen.

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision (GtG #450; PH #339)

[Optional: **Scripture reading** Isaiah 49:15-16]

**Blessing and Charge**

[Alternate placement: **Hymn:** Help Us Accept Each Other]