

Welcome to Sunday Morning Worship

Third Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2020

Good Morning to our members and friends at home,

This resource is intended to be used by individuals and families who desire to set aside a portion of their Sunday for a moment of worship. A new worship resource will be offered for each week our Sunday morning worship services are suspended. Please adapt this resource as you wish. You will need to supply your own bible for the scripture lesson. I suggest that you pick a place in your home that is comfortable and free of distractions. You may wish to include items that help you enter your time of worship, such as candles. While music is not included in this resource, you might consider adding your own. Our prayer is that our time apart may be fruitful and that this pandemic runs its course quickly and those affected return to health according to God's design.

An Opening Call to Worship

Psalm 36

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

We feast on the abundance of your house, and you give us drink from the river of your delights.

For with you, O God, is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Blessed be your holy name.

Morning Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

O God, Creator and Sustainer, Living Water, River of Mercy, Source of Life; in whom we live and move and have our being, who quenches our thirst, refreshes our weariness, bathes, washes and cleanses our wounds, we come in praise and thanksgiving. You are ever before us as a fountain of every blessing and for all the world a river of hope even in this time of anxiety and uncertainty. All Honor, glory, and power be to you, your Holy Spirit and your Christ who taught us to pray, saying... *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Scripture Lesson: John 4:1-15

Introduction to the reading:

During Jesus' first year of public ministry he left Galilee and traveled south into Judea and attended the Passover in Jerusalem. There is little account of this first year in the Gospels and much of what is written comes from the Gospel according to John. Today's narrative takes place towards the end of that first year after Jesus had left Jerusalem and before he returned to Galilee to begin his second year of ministry.

After the reading, you may reflect on the story and then share your insights.

Prayers of the People

You may wish to add your own prayers for healing, prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for comfort and others, silent prayer time is also included. The following prayer focuses on the scripture lesson and those moments when we feel tired, exhausted and parched of spirit.

Out of the dust of my being, do I cry to you O God. In my dryness, when I am withdrawn from you, bitter and angry, tired and weary, in my dryness when I rebel against my self-imposed isolation, and drink in my failures and disappointments, in my dryness, I come slowly and hesitantly to you. Are you with me in this desert? Do you walk beside me as I crawl from empty spring to dry oasis? I am thirsty, parched and dusty, O God. And I am not sure where to find a drink. Will you provide it? Fountain of every blessing? Will you fill my emptiness with your living water? Will you wash from my heart the dull aches, the grudges I hold, the loneliness I feel, with your cool, cool, water? Will your love and mercy pour over me like the cascades surging down, through the rocks? That my thoughts may be more loving, my words more kind, your truth spoken in love? Come, thou fountain of every blessing, fill me with your holy spirit, fill your church with your blessings, bring your glory to all creation, as the waters cover the sea. Out of the dry, dust of my being, I cry to you, O God. And you, O Lord, offer the living water of Christ, our redeemer, as we offer these our prayers to you:

(Personal prayers may be offered)

Gracious God, who hears each prayer even as we come to you in the stillness of this moment..... (Silent prayer time)

Out of the dry, dust of our beings, we cry to you, O God. And you, O Lord, offer the living water of Christ.

Benediction: From *St. Patrick's Breast Plate*

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me:
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me. Amen.