

Assurance and Peace Romans 5:8

“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Throughout this week, continue to find ways to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Message

Children’s worship materials and a guided discussion are provided to households with children via email each week. If you have children in your household, but have not received the children’s worship materials, please contact the church office.

Scripture Genesis 18:1-15 (Genesis 21:1-7)

Sermon *A Question of Faithfulness*

Hymn *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Offering

Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how you can give them back to God in love and service to others.

We understand that these are uncertain and difficult times. But that is all the more reason that the work of the church continues. Please prayerfully continue to give your gifts to this ministry. You can take just a moment to give online through our website, or prepare a check to be mailed.

Prayer of Dedication

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us – Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Recognition of Graduates, Leaders, and Teachers

Prayers of the People

parts of this prayer adapted from Rev. Jill Duffield, Presbyterian Outlook

Lord, when you see us harassed and helpless, you have compassion for us. You know our need for a good shepherd, one who leads us to places of still waters and brings us through the valley of the shadow of death. Our anxiety grows during these long days of the pandemic. Our questions about how to move forward together in hope multiply as cries for justice go too long unheard. We live among those who for too long have felt harassed and helpless. We need your care and intervention, your mercy and direction.

Show us, Good Shepherd, where to go from here. Clear the path to green pastures and safe spaces where all can freely breathe. Heal the sick, the heart sick, the home sick, the long sick and the soul sick. Bring close those pushed to the margins, the laborers not paid a living wage, the ones hurting without access to healthcare, the lonely who yearn to be included. Cure every illness that consumes us and keeps us from abundant life: diseases of body, mind and spirit, COVID-19 and all-consuming greed, addictions and the abuse of power, violence and an ever-growing opportunity gap.

Send us, Savior of creation, into the world, to be your laborers, bringing in and sharing God's abundant grace-filled harvest. Make us justice bearers, evil crushers, life givers, healers and helpers. Move us with your compassion, so that we do not turn away from the suffering of others, but instead walk toward it in your power, trusting that the Spirit will bring endurance, character and a hope that does not disappoint. Embrace us, loving God, draw us so close to you that we are pulled into genuine community with each other. Break down barriers between us. Build up trust among us. Give us the words to speak and the ears to hear your truth that will set us all free. Do not let us remain harassed and helpless, but gather us in the lost and the lonely, so that we are on earth as in heaven, your one, united, beloved household, all of us valued, cherished, nurtured and able to live without fear.

And now, Lord, hear us as we lift up those whose names are known to us:

Peter and his family as they mourn the death of Peter's brother Tom, Jennifer as she recovers from knee surgery, Linda, Marsha and her mother and father, Linda, Jackie and Chuck; Jay – who reached out to us online for prayers for health as he has complications with his liver, and Courtney, who reached out online for prayers on behalf of Georgette; Bill, Elaine, Dot, Marilyn, Miriam, Fran and all those at the Holiday Health and Rehab, Madonna Manor, Chapel Hill, Highlands, Waterman Lake, Atria and other assisted living communities.

And finally, we pray for the national gathering of our denomination, the General Assembly, convening this Friday. We pray for the work and the discernment that will be done. That we may grow as a church in our witness in the world to Jesus Christ, who is risen and who alone is Lord.

(Personal/Silent Prayers)

We offer our prayer in the name of the One who taught us to boldly pray together,

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 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.

Hymn

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Charge and Benediction

Psalm 13:5-6

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Beloved, may the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now, and forevermore. Amen.