

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for Worship at Home – July 5, 2020

Allow a moment to take a breath, and quiet your heart and mind before the Lord.

Opening Prayer

**adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, (c) 2014 Westminster John Knox Press*

Lord, you who are the author of all life, you cast your glory all around us; you invade our sleep and are with us when we rise; you reveal yourself in ancient stories and the give-and-take of common life. By the power of your Spirit, come to us now, for you have called us where we are. We pray in the name of Jesus – our hope and our confidence – who is your beloved Son and our Lord. Amen.

Call to Worship

from Psalm 28:1-2*

To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me,
for if you are silent to us, we shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
 Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help,
as we lift up our hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

**Throughout the summer, as circumstances prevent us from gathering together, and in recognition of all that is going on in our nation and the world, each Sunday's Call to Worship will be from a psalm of lament; and each Sunday's Benediction will include a passage of hope and promise from that same psalm.*

Confession

Romans 7:15, 22-25

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin..."

Lord we long for a yoke light and easy, yet we do not know how to rest in the promise of such labor. We desire peace, but we do not know how to work for it. We long for justice, but we do not have the stamina. We admire selflessness, repentance, and forgiveness, but we find them too hard.

And yet it is what we thought was the easy path that has made us weary and worn down. Forgive our shortsightedness, Lord. Give us grace, that we might find the strength of repentance, renewed in love for you, and love for our neighbor.

(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Sermon *Steadfast Faithfulness: A Love Story*

Prayers of the People *adapted from *Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship July 5, 2020*, Rev. Jill Duffield

Holy God, we enter this time of prayer mindful of our inability to be content. We are restless and dissatisfied, even when we have all we need and then some. Instead of giving thanks for that which we have, we lament that which we feel we lack. We burden ourselves with things that do not offer that which they promise. We burden others with expectations they cannot possibly meet. We burden creation with our relentless abuse of the earth and its creatures. As we pause to acknowledge our total dependence on you, reveal to us the abundance you pour out upon your people.

We rejoice in the myriad of colors that show your glory around every corner — the green leaves on the trees, the oranges and purples and pinks of blooming flowers, the flash of the red cardinal and the shiny black of the crow. Help us to stop and notice the beauty you so lavishly create and share.

We celebrate the goodness you embed in humanity. We look for the helpers, the healers, the teachers, mentors, leaders and encouragers who spend their lives looking to the interest of others, seeking to serve rather than be served.

We give thanks for those closest to us, the people who love us at our worst, cheer us when we are at our lowest, care for us when we are at our weakest and want for us what is best. They show us what it means to be called beloved and significant.

We praise you for the gift of this day, whatever it entails, knowing that you are present with us, that Christ prays for us, that the Spirit intercedes for us. We rest in these promises — so that emboldened by your power we can share these truths with those yet to know of their priceless worth in your eyes.

We lament the suffering so pervasive in our world. We cry out to you with sighs too deep for words for those who go to bed hungry, the people fearing for their lives, the vulnerable too long exploited and your children denied justice. We lift up to you the sick and the broken-hearted, the lonely and the impoverished. As we are yoked to Christ, yoke us to those who need their burdens lightened and their souls refreshed.

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

Lord look with tender care upon Elaine Garland who mourns the death of her husband and our dear friend and brother Bill and all those who mourn his death; Cynthia and her family mourning the deaths of her cousins Bob and Donna, and her Uncle John in now in hospice, and Paul's mother at the Holiday recently testing positive for COVID-19; Roberta and her mother Maureen; we rejoice with Jackie and Chuck as Chuck has been declared cleared of COVID and we continue to pray for them, Betty's friends Maria, Charlene, and Theresa who are all having health complications, 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; Elaine, Dot, Marilyn, Miriam, Fran and all those at Madonna Manor, Chapel Hill, Highlands, Waterman Lake, Atria and other assisted living communities; and especially the Holiday Health and Rehab as many residents and staff there are bearing the weight of COVID-19 cases. We pray for Sheri who reached out online, we pray for her, her daughter and her parents. *(Personal Prayers)*

We make our prayer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, 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 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.

Charge and Benediction

Psalm 28:8-9

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

O save your people, and bless Your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

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.