

**CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Sunday, March 22 2020*

*The Fourth Sunday in Lent:*

*A Service for Worship at Home*

**Prelude**

*Take this time to silence your cell phones and other distractions, and quiet your heart and mind.*

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, in order that the children of the earth might discern love from fear you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines on us, may we receive courage and wisdom in these anxious and confusing times. Steady us with the fellowship of the Spirit. Amen.

**Call to Worship**

Ephesians 5:8-9

*For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.*

**Hymn**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**Confession**

Eternal God, our judge and our redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and we pass by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will, to love you with all that we are and to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and Savior.

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**Assurance and Peace**

Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8, 14

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life.”*

As God’s forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, in the grace of Jesus Christ. *“Live as children of the light,”* for Christ shines on you.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Throughout this week, through phone calls and cards, smiles and hand-waves across the street and across the hall, be sure to share the peace of Christ with one another.

## Children's Message

Downloadable materials for children (and the young at heart!) can be found on the church website with the worship materials.

## Scripture

### Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.*

## To Think About and Meditate On

The psalmist speaks of green pastures and still waters, and the restoration of his or her soul. *Where do you need your soul restored? What are the troubled waters you need the Lord to still?*

The psalmist speaks of “the darkest valley.” We are in a time of great uncertainty. *Name the darkness of uncertainty or worry you feel.*

Psalm 23 is often used in times of grief or mourning. We as a society are engaging in these practices of social distancing in order to care for the health of people. But these practices bring with them their own losses. Losses of community, or opportunities, of long anticipated plans, and so on. *What losses are you grieving?*

The psalmist declares that the rod and staff of our Good Shepherd bring comfort. Speak this psalm to yourself when you find yourself anxious or confused. Remind yourself, and those with whom you are able to communicate, that the Lord is our shepherd. And good shepherds are always present with their sheep. We may not be in a place of green pastures and still waters yet, but the promise of God is that he will always lead us there. We may still be journeying through times of grief and uncertainty, but the comfort of God is with us on the journey. The troubled waters do not have the final word; God's goodness does; the shadow and darkness of the valley is not the end of the road; but rather God's mercy is., *for the Lord is your Shepherd...*

## Hymn

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

**Offering**

Hebrews 13:16

*“Do not neglect to do good, and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”*

Consider what you have to offer in these circumstances in which we find ourselves, and reflect with thanksgiving those who have given of themselves in a myriad of ways for our communities and for the world in response to these circumstances.

We understand that these are uncertain and difficult times. *If you are able* to give your regular offering to the church, take this moment to give online through our website, or prepare a check to be mailed.

**Prayers of the People**

O God, enliven the church around the world, rouse us for our mission, that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world. Breathe fresh life into your people; quiet anxious hearts, and still running minds, that we may reveal Christ in word and action. We pray for the world...

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways love and justice, peace and hope; caring for one another in how we live and move in uncertain times and places. May we serve Christ as we serve one another, and may we serve one another as we serve Christ.

We pray for our communities...

Sustaining God, we pray for all whose livelihoods are at risk, and for all whose pain or hunger, cries for justice or help are pushed aside in the midst of focus on the virus.

We pray for those in need...

Great Physician, we lift up those who have become sick, and those who care for them.

We pray for those in need of healing...

God of all Comfort, we pray for those who grieve the death of loved ones, and those who grieve the loss of opportunities and dreams, and long looked-forward-to opportunities.

*We pray for those who mourn...*

Hear us now Lord, whether out loud or in the quiet places of our hearts, as we lift our prayers – our joys and concerns to you...

Lord you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may minister in your name, with your love in our hearts, and rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints; we entrust ourselves, and one another, and all our life to you, our Lord, and our Friend.

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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**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**Benediction**

Know that there no valley, no darkness of confusion or fear, uncertainty or worry that is too deep for the Lord to walk with you, that we may receive his light, and shine his light on one another.

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 forever. Amen.