

Sunday Worship, Calvin Presbyterian Church
The Third Sunday Lent, March 15, 2020

If you are with others, share the different parts of the service. If this is a personal time of worship for you, perhaps don't just read silently, but speak out loud. Know that though we are separated by distance this morning, we are united in worship through the Spirit, just as when we normally gather in the sanctuary, we are not worshipping as an isolated body, but united to our brothers and sisters around the world through the Spirit.

Call to Worship *Psalm 124:8; 1 Peter 3*

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord

Many: who made heaven and earth.

One: Give praise to the Almighty,

Many: by whose great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Opening Prayer

Lord, you are living water. As we worship you this day, quench our thirst. Show us who you are, and who we are called to be in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Listen to and/or sing a favorite hymn (YouTube is a great place to search for a favorite hymn)

Call to Confession* *Hebrews 4:14-16*

Remembering that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

[a time of personal confession may be included]

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness* *Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

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Reading of Scripture

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Pastor Kevin talks about this passage in his video message this morning. If you haven't already, you may choose to watch it now.

Some things to consider and discuss (if you are with others) after reading the passage and/or watching Pastor Kevin's video message:

- **What does the word "exile" mean to you?**
- **In what ways does "exile" relate to our current situation as we are in the midst of the Covid-19/Coronavirus pandemic?**
- **In what ways does it not?**
- **How does God's message to "seek the welfare of the city," even in exile speak to our situation today?**
- **What are some ways we, as either individuals or a church, can "seek the welfare of the city" in the midst of the Covid-19/coronavirus pandemic?**
- **In what ways can we prevent others from feelings of "exile"?**

Listen to and/or sing a favorite hymn

Prayers of the People**

God of life, you are our wellspring of hope, the giver of living water;

the source of deepest compassion;

the fountain of eternal life;

Therefore we come to you.

Praying for all who are thirsty.

Who thirst for a life of meaning; a word of grace; or simply a drink of water.

We pray for all who are weary from the journey of life, weary from times of quarreling or testing, pain or grief.

We lift up all who find themselves at the mercy of others, in places of injustice or poverty, violence or oppression.

For all who live with worry, fear, or anxiety.

For those who are sick, we pray for healing.

For those who mourn, we pray for comfort.

For those who are lost, we pray for a way home, or a place of welcome.

In this time especially, as the news is filled with reports of sickness and the Coronavirus pandemic, when we perhaps don't quite know where the line is between wisdom and fear, caution and anxiety, we pray for clarity. We pray that the unknown would not lead us to a place of scapegoating, that we would not neglect the most vulnerable among us, or that we would call to mind those we are tempted to forget; that our actions and practices would not bear witness to fear or self-preservation, but rather to love.

We pray for leaders and policy makers who have to make difficult decisions – we pray for wisdom and courage.

We lift up health care workers...

We lift up those working long hours with anxious customers...

We lift up those in service industries whose livelihoods are threatened...

We lift up those who grieve the loss of plans, events long looked forward to, and opportunities...

We lift up our neighbors near and far; those in Asia, in Europe, in Africa, and in the Americas...

We pray now for those whose names or situations are in our hearts...

[include prayer requests here]

We pray for those whose names and concerns are unknown to us, but they are fully known to you...

Lord, through your Spirit, pour your love into our hearts, your grace into our lives, your healing into our world, until the earth is filled with your glory as the waters cover the sea.

Amen.

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Listen to and/or sing a favorite hymn

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**