

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 29, 2020

5th Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Name...

Prayer of Preparation for Worship

{for silent prayer before starting the worship playlist}

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.¹ AMEN.

Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 130, *NRSV*; choose one person to lead)

One: O Israel and members of our household, hope in the Lord!

All: **For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.**

One: It is he who will redeem us and Israel from all our iniquities and sin.

All: **Let us worship God.**

Hymn of Praise

“O Christ, the Healer”

Call to Confession (*led by one*)

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.²

Silent Prayer of Confession (*about 30 seconds*)

Corporate Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. You know how often we have

believed we can control our circumstances but turned to you when our circumstances seemed out-of-control. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN.³

Assurance of Pardon (from Psalm 130, *led by one*)

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities or sins, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness in you, so that you may be revered. We wait for the Lord, our soul waits, and in his word we hope; our soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. AMEN.

The Passing of the Peace (You may say: “The peace of Christ be with you.” and respond: “And also with you.”)

...to Proclaim God's Word

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

{Pick someone in your household to read this scripture passage. If you don't have a Bible in your home, you can find the passage online [here](https://bit.ly/2UGWM6P) or at <https://bit.ly/2UGWM6P> (case sensitive).}

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45

Sermon

Rev. Andy Smothers

Anthem

“When Jesus Wept”

#312

{Feel free to reflect silently during this round written and composed by William Billings in 1770.}

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

{I invite you to pray as a household offering your various praises, thanksgivings, and requests to God aloud. Close with the Lord's Prayer.} 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.

...to Give Thanks to God...

Prayer of Dedication of Time, Care, and Finances (*in unison*)

{This is a litany. I invite you to pause as noted and name a few things for which you are thankful. When all seem finished adding, may the leader continue.}

Gracious God, everything we have — everything that comes to us even through our own hands and our own labors originates with you. First, we give you thanks for time — the various activities it has enabled this week and that we have been given continued time in this world to serve and to be served by others around us... {PAUSE} We thank you for all who have cared for us through a kind word, a gift of their time and labors, and in their service to our community including particularly our healthcare and other essential workers who serve at risk to themselves. {PAUSE} We thank you, also, for the means to meet our basic needs and the ability to bless others through your church and through other means. Please be with those of us and others who struggle to meet needs during this time. Enable the church and others to meet them where they are. {PAUSE} Father, we would fail if we neglected to acknowledge you and others for these various acts. Protect us and others in this coming week, and enable us to join for worship again this coming Sunday. Restore our world to greater productivity and to health, and help us remember the limits of our control and the expanse of your sovereignty. In the name of the Great Healer, our Lord Jesus the Messiah. AMEN.

...and Be Sent in God's Name

Closing Hymn “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #316

{Note that the words in the Presbyterian Hymnal vary slightly in places should you follow in the hymnal.}

Benediction

Benediction Response “We Cannot Measure How You Heal”
{Listen and contemplate. The new PC(USA) Hymnal, *Glory to God*, includes this as hymn #797.}

¹ Book of Common Worship, 250.

² Book of Common Worship, 52.

³ *Ibid*, 53-54.

First Presbyterian Church

(Bulletin for Online Worship)



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