



## Order of Service

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**March 29, 2020**

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### **Call to worship** *(based on Psalm 130)*

Lord, we come crying to you from the depths. We come bearing our souls and awaiting your response. We wait in hope, knowing that you promise to hear and provide.

### **Opening hymn**

### **Prayer of confession**

Friends, today is a Sunday for refreshment, a time of Sabbath relief in the midst of this challenging Lent. Believing God's promise of forgiveness, let us rejoice in the gift of confession. Let us pray together:

God of all that is, seen and unseen, when you ask us if dry bones can live, we are skeptical, wary of looking foolish preaching to the long dead and unsure that your Spirit is really enough to bring sinew and breath to places of loss and desolation. Forgive our lack of trust and help us to proclaim your life-giving power with courage, no matter the circumstances. Silence in us any voice but yours until that time when Christ returns and death and crying and mourning are no more. *(Silent prayer)* Amen.

### **Assurance of pardon** *(Psalm 130:7-8)*

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is the Lord who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Friends, believe the Good News, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

### **Hymn of praise**

### **Prayer for illumination**

God you tell us to prophesy, to preach, to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth. Open our ears to hear your Word and then write it on our hearts so that it will be evident in all we do. In Christ's name we pray, amen.



## **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

#### **Affirmation of faith** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.2)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

#### **Call for the offering**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is within it. While we worship in a multitude of places, we gather together our respective offerings, knowing that God will take them, bless them and use them for the building up of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

#### **Prayer of dedication**

Gracious God, it is a privilege to partner with you in sharing the good news of the gospel in Word and deed. We ask your blessings on these gifts offered in faith and given with joy. May they be an outward sign of your mercy and grace and a witness to your overflowing goodness toward all of creation.

#### **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

Lord, let our minds be set on the Spirit so that we might know peace. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be fully present to the enfleshed needs within and around us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might remember all that Jesus taught us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be given the right words to say in this trying time on earth.

Lord, hear us when we send word to you that our brothers and our sisters are ill. Come quickly to bring comfort and healing and, yes Lord resurrection.

Lord, do not delay because we know if you are here we can endure. We believe you are the Messiah, the one who brings life abundant and grants life eternal. Do not delay, but hurry and bring your glory, full of grace and truth.

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Lord, we are bold to call out to you for the sake of God's beloved world. We lift up to you and ask mercy for those who do not think they can endure another moment of grief or loss or pain. We cry out for divine discernment for our leaders seeking to stem the scourge of this pandemic. We run to you, Lord, and fall at your feet on behalf of those too sick or too weak or too afraid to cry out for themselves.

Lord, we hear you weeping with us. We know you, too, love those we love. We thank you for hearing our pleas for help and coming to our aid. We are grateful for your compassion and your care, for the gift of family and community, for the beauty of nature and the glimpses of Easter even deep in the season of Lent. Call us forth from the tombs in which we've too long been trapped, unbind us and set us free so that others will see and come to believe. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to say when we pray, *Our Father...*

### **Closing hymn**

### **Charge and benediction**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

May the Lord bless and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.

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