**First Presbyterian Church**

300 Market Street, Warren, PA 16365-2360

Following Christ So All May Thrive

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**March 29, 2020**

**FIFTH SUNDAY**

**IN**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

**March 29, 2020 10:00 AM**

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.*

\*\*This is the service we will enjoy together once we are able to be together again! Please be guided by it as we reflect on our calling to be **NEIGHBORS** to one another!\*\*

**We GATHER in God’s GRACE**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (verses from Psalm 133)

L: How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!

**P: It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.**

L: It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

**P: There the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.**

\*HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #306

CALL TO CONFESSION: (based on Romans 6)

Do we continue to live in ways that are against God’s ways just so God can continue to be gracious and forgiving toward us? No! Once we become aware of how we are hurting God we continually ask God to renew us in Christ’s resurrection life! In this power, we are free from sin and bound to God! Knowing that we need this renewal, let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive) [adapted from Prayers for a Privileged People by Walter Brueggemann]

L: Jesus – crucified and risen – draws us into his presence again, he who had nowhere to lay his head, no safe place, no secure home.

**P: We gather around him in our safety and security, confessing that we sometimes fret about others who are not like us.**

L: We know well, O Lord, that you are the God who welcomes strangers, who loves outsiders, and protects sojourners.

**P: We gather around Jesus in our comfort and routine, admitting that we sometimes feel caught in the tension between gospel and culture.**

L: We do not ask for an easy way out, but for courage and grace and faithfulness.

**P: Give us generosity amid the needs of those around us and ease as we relate to all people.**

L: You are the God of all forgiveness! Empower us to serve your will in the world.

**P: Embolden us to follow your leading so that our lives may conform to your vision of a kingdom of love on earth as in heaven! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE**

WORDS ASSURING US OF GOD’S GRACE (Responsive) (based on Romans 6)

L: Hear the Good News: just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of God, we too can walk in newness of life!

**P: The person we used to be is no more! Sin and death hold no power over us!**

L: By grace, we are dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus!

**P: We rejoice in the new life that is ours in Christ! Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE *We Are Forgiven* #447

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison):

**In your mercy and love, O God, open our hearts and minds as your Word is heard that we may receive its truth today! By your Spirit, enable us to understand and appreciate who you are for us and how you work in our lives! Strengthen us in faith we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 10:25-37 (Common English Bible)

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?” He responded, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself*.” Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.” But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him.  The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?” Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD EXPLORED: “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” Rev. Rebecca Taylor

Prompts for being engaged by God’s Word:

1. Today’s Scripture is the familiar story of the “Good Samaritan.” What does Jesus teach the legal expert (and us!) through this parable?
2. We all tend to put people into categories. Reflect for a moment on your internal “system” for sifting and sorting people into “boxes.” How elaborate is your system?
3. Jesus’ lesson is a lot like a boomerang. The legal expert wanted to label others as “my neighbor” or “not my neighbor” but Jesus turns it around and helps him to understand that *he* is to be the neighbor, exercising compassion and mercy toward all in need. How are you a neighbor to others?
4. The movie, “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” is based on the ministry of Fred Rogers. One aspect of Rogers’ life is that he seemed to take time for anyone and everyone he encountered, listening and responding to them... seeing them as a valued child of God (whether they would say that of themselves or not!). Do you know someone like that? Do others experience you as that “Good Samaritan”?

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYERS (traditional)

**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.**

\*WORDS AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (Unison) (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

**Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way.**

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor’s needs as our own, to care passionately for the other’s good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor’s survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.**

\*HYMN *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* #203

BENEDICTION: John 15:12-13

Remember: you are never alone. You are always held in the love of God, kept in the grace of Jesus the Christ, and accompanied by the Holy Spirit!

 



\* THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK\*\*\*

**LITURGY OF THE PALMS**

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 **Matthew 21:1–11**

**LITURGY OF THE PASSION**

Isaiah 50:4–9a Philippians 2:5–11

Psalm 31:9–16  **Matthew 27:11–54**

Questions for Reflection

As this week unfolds, spend some time each day pondering the mind of Christ. What is the shape of his compassion? Describe the image of such great love. Finally, what does it feel like, physically, to be so utterly cared for?

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise, O God, awakened by your Word, to live another day. Lead me in your path. Show me the steps to take toward greater faith. Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week where the shadows deepen even in the daylight. Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I come to the darkness of night, O God, tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care. Keep me safe from all harm, and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength. In Jesus’ holy name, I pray. Amen.

\*\*Taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission



**OUR STAFF**

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Kyle Brecht, Property Manager Ben Check, Assist. Property Manager

Courtney Robillard, Childcare Curtis Tyler, Childcare

Lori VanOrd, Childcare Terri Shaw, Childcare

**THE SESSION**

Ross Bryan Joanna Elletson

Rene’ Davis Ann Ferguson

Gale Dyke Ray Pring

Larry Dyke Carrie Salapek

Jim Eggleston Lynn Sears

Vickie Eggleston

**\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS \*\*\***

**2020 Presbytery of Lake Erie Mission Trip-**Sunday July 5 – Friday July 10 the Presbytery of Lake Erie will head to West Virginia Presbytery. All ages 14 & up are encouraged to join us. No previous experience or expertise required! Just bring a heart and hands willing to serve! Space is limited to 25 participants, first come first served with a $50 non-refundable deposit. Cost will be $350 per person which includes meals, housing, transportation and work materials. If you would like additional information, contact Cindy Knapp.

**EASTER HOLIDAY HOT MEALS**-have been postponed. Information will be published once a new date has been set.

**ADDITION TO THE CHURCH DIRECTORY**-

Lila and Jim Hookins Lila (cell) 727-271-1255

Warren Apartments, #102 Jim (cell) 727-271-1155

209 Market Street

Warren, PA 16365

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-**Join in God’s call to share our bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression. Gifts will be received through Sunday, April 12, 2020. Online donations may be designated for One Great Hour of Sharing. **A picture containing weapon, nature

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**BEING RESCHEDULED:** Let’s join together for A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! An abbreviated worship service will begin at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary and then we’ll all move to Fellowship Hall for a movie, a meal, and some motivational conversation. We’ll start by watching the final feature of this year’s “Meat at the Movies” series (with popcorn!), “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” (2019, 109 minutes, starring Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers), and then we’ll enjoy a delicious catered lunch topped off with pies from the Plaza! Childcare will be available. Many thanks to the Session for approving the purchase of **new, comfier chairs** in time for this event!

**\*\*\* JOYS AND CONCERNS \*\*\***

**Joys:**

The Caring Connection that gathers monthly at Warren Apartments

**Concerns:**

Prayers for Connor and Christian

Prayers for Joyce Hill who suffered a fall

Prayers for Dorothy Collins, who is now home

Prayers for Bill

Prayers for Mary Schorman

Prayers of healing for Wanda Monts

Courage, Strength and Faith to Larfay Austin Jr during his incarceration

Prayers for Sherry Walter who is now residing with her daughter, Kim

Prayers for Carinne Palm, Vickie Eggleston’s sister, undergoing radiation treatments

Prayers for Trevor, recovering from shoulder surgery

Prayers for Susan Wenzel, who has health concerns

Prayers for Norm Perschke, who is at the Rouse

Prayers for Lynda Slocum’s son Andy and grandson, Brayden

Prayers for Lois Buerkle, Lynn Sears’ sister, as she undergoes treatments for cancer

Prayers for Andy Yurick

Prayers for Carol Swanson

Prayers for Tristan Dolan

Prayers for Louise Crozier and family

Prayers for Katie Roth Spiegel, who is undergoing treatment for cancer

Prayers for Wally Post

Prayers for Ron & June Carlson Prayers for Calvin Leonard, residing at the Rouse Home

Prayers for Lisa Huey Hochberg and others struggling with dementia and alzheimer’s

Prayers for Pat Fankhouser

Prayers for Seth Prayers for Margaret Taylor, Rebecca’s mother, under Hospice care.

Prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus.

Courage, strength, and faith to all those affected by violent crimes.

Those serving in our military, people struggling with addiction, and those in jail

Those facing famine and hunger in remote and desolate places.

Let the Light of the Lord shine on all peoples in all nations

**\*\*\* PRESBYTERY JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS \*\*\***

We pray for the churches and ministerial staff that constitute the Lake Erie Presbytery. This week we pray for Linesville and Franklin, Rocky Grove, and Rev. Rachel Johns, Temporary Supply Pastor and Rev. Emmanuel Amey, Stated Clerk, Evangeline Presbyterian Church, Ghana.

Coronavirus — What You Need to Know

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus first detected in Wuhan, China, that has caused an outbreak of respiratory illness. The current outbreak has spread internationally, impacting an increasing number of countries. In the United States, imported cases of coronavirus infection in travelers have been detected and person-to-person spread of the virus also has been seen among close contacts of returned travelers from China. On February 25, 2020, the CDC confirmed COVID-19 in an individual who reportedly did not have relevant travel history or exposure to another known patient.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](http://www.cdc.gov/ncov), most people in the United States have little immediate risk of exposure to this virus. The virus is not currently spreading widely in the United States. However, it is likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur and that, at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur.

**Action Steps**

1. Stay informed – the situation with the coronavirus is fluid and the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov/ncov) is updating its website daily with the latest information and advice for the public.
2. Remember to take everyday preventive actions that are always recommended to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
   * Avoid close contact with sick people.
   * While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible. Stay home if you are sick.
   * Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
   * Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
   * Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.
3. The CDC and State Department have issued advisories asking people to avoid all nonessential travel to China and South Korea at this time. Travel alerts have also been issued for Japan, Italy and Iran.

Given the rapidly-evolving situation with COVID-19, it is prudent to revisit your organization’s emergency preparedness plans, including any pandemic planning. The CDC has made [pre-pandemic planning guides](https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/tools-resources/planning-guidance-checklists.html) available for community and faith-based organizations, educational institutions, workplaces and individual households.