

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



artwork by Jan Odgers

We Gather As A Community Of Faith

GATHERING SONG #90

Wait for the Lord

TAIZE

(Sing or speak these words several times.)

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart.***

We Prepare to Worship God

TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AND MEDITATION

You, O God, are the giver of life.
You, alone, have given us the gift of this day.
Enliven us with your Spirit
that we may live this day to our very fullest
inspired by Christ and strengthen in the Spirit.

We Approach God in Faith

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 130:5-8)

One: Wait for the Lord: create space for your spirit – root yourself in God's Word.

All: We wait as those who watch the horizon for first light.

One: Hope in the Lord: God is faithful – the sun will rise.

**All: We hope as those who trust God's steadfast love,
and lean on God's powerful grace.**

SONG #649

Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home,**

**The Lord has promised Good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise that when we'd first begun.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PASSING OF PEACE

**All: Holy God, if you held our sin against us,
who could live, who could stand? Not one of us.**

**Trusting your steadfast love and leaning on your powerful grace,
we come in silence to confess the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

- Time for Silent Prayer -

One: Holy God, in spite of all we have done and all we have left undone,

**All: Your arms are open. Your heart is full.
You welcome us. You love us. You forgive us.
Help us know your mercy.
Help us receive your forgiveness.
And help us move forward with in confidence and faith.
In Christ and through the Spirit.**

One: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

To reduce the risk of sharing illness,
we are changing our practice of Passing the Peace.

The lay leader will say the words:
"May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."
The congregation will respond: "And also with you."
Then the congregation will be seated.

**We have two podcasts. The longer podcast begins here and continues through The
Lord's Prayer. The shorter podcast is just the homily.**

Longer Podcast: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/102332/3140980>

SONG #435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

***There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.***

***For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.***

God's Word is Read, Heard, & Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Word of God, come to us as you came to Lazarus.

Come to the caves of our lives.

Call us back to life.

Unbind us and set us free.

Through the renewing power of your Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL John 11:17-44

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also

weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

One: This is the Word of the Lord:

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

Link to Podcast of only the Homily: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/102332/3140971>

We Respond in Faith

SONG #796

**We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole.**

**As once you walked through ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
we know you come among us still
with power to heal again.**

**Through nights of pain and wakefulness,
through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,
your calming peace to know.**

**We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For what or whom are you grateful?
- About what or whom are you concerned?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE¹ AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Word of God, come to us as you came to Lazarus.

Come to the caves of our lives -
caves we have created,
and caves we have sought;
Caves to which we have been sent,
caves in which we now reside.

Come to the caves of our world -
caves of containment,
and caves of protection;
Caves of solace and anxiety,
caves that quickly become tombs.

Word of God, come to us as you came to Lazarus.

Call us back to life -
life created by you,
and life sustained by you;
Life in relationship with you,
life in service to others.

Call us back to life -
life that is hope in despair,
and peace in unsettled times.
Life that is joy in sorrow,
love beyond understanding.

Word of God, come to us as you came to Lazarus.

Unbind us and set us free -
liberate shackles of sadness,
and burdens too heavy to bear.
Release us from fear that inhibits
deliver us in your grace.

Unbind us and set us free -
call us to community,
and fuel us for connection.
Show us your way,
inspire us to walk with you.

Through the renewing power of your Spirit,
and grounded in the words you teach us to pray....

**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.**

OFFERING

To reduce the risk of sharing illness,
we will not pass the offering plates from person to person.
The ushers will hold the offering plates and come to you.
Please do not take the plate from the usher.
Simply place your offering in the plate.

DOXOLOGY

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SONG # 541 *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

***God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.***

***God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.***

*God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

We Depart to Love & Serve God's Creation

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

In this time of distancing,
may God grant us
quiet in our minds,
calm in our hearts,
peace in our spirits,
connection in our separation,
and an abiding sense of God's Comfort.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you, and all those you love,
and all those who are convinced they are unlovable.

May we reach out to love.

Amen.

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends

Pat Lindsay, Rachel Williams, Sandra Richbourg, **Charolette Brown**, Libby Morton, Dan Grassi, Dick Grassi, **Paula Hagler**, Dave Smith, Carol Pope, Aleta Wheeler, Marie Minani, Inez Ruchte, Andrew Scharfe, **Peggie Bell**, **Jeane Nagel**

- **Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet**
- Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna
- Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy
- Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill
- Teresa Johnson's cousin, Kaitlyn
- Charolette Brown's friend, Jaqueline
- Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Fran
- Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene
- Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, & friend Ann Weber
- Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces **Colleen**, & Sourour Dehnadi, **brother Ken**, & friend Paul Hutter & family
- Dave & Rita Hart's friends Max, Terry, neighbor Mary & her family
- Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman
- Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey
- Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family
- Jo Lourens' father Flip Viviers
- Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family
- Lisa, coworker of Koreen Thomasson, & Lisa's husband Ed
- Sara Monazah's grandmother Zary
- Carol Pope's brother, David
- Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy
- John Lavender's brother Don Allen Lavender, & John & Susie's niece's husband Ben Cooper
- Nicole Goolsby's mother Lyn Rion
- Joe Moody's sister Mary Lynn
- Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia
- Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters
- Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner
- Frank Boyd, following a second surgery for a detached retina
- The Tatum-Carter family, following the death of their friend Matthew
- **Chris Maxwell's sister Cecile**

*requests in **bold** have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.