

Worship Plan for Sunday, March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- some digital notes

Wilderness Poem – THE WILDERNESS IS A PLACE OF DISRUPTION by Sarah Are read by Jeremy Ayares

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My grandfather was a good man,
But he believed
That wilderness emotions
Were not to be seen.
Cry with the door closed,
Don't dwell on the negative.
Chin up, kid,

We've been here before.
My grandfather was a good man,
But I'd like to say—
The wilderness is here to interrupt your
previously-scheduled programming.

Like water in the desert
And setting the slaves free,
The wilderness might be
The very thing we need,
The very thing we dream,
The very thing we plead For.

I guess what I'm trying to say is—
It never seems appealing to let a bird
in the house,
But if you do,
Then you might as well
Open every window and door.

And if you do,
Then you just might find yourself
Basking in the light,
Dancing in the breeze,
Overwhelmed with the beauty
That an open door brings.

So I'm opening my door
And inviting in the wind,

To rustle up my heart
And start over again.

For sweeping the truth
under the rug
Has never gotten us far.
So may the wilderness be like a
Bird in your house.
Throw open your doors.
The truth must come out.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

Jesus of Nazareth,

There are stories of you healing the blind all over scripture. You were constantly opening people's eyes. So today we confess that we often choose to keep our eyes closed. We turn away from injustice in our world, worried you might ask us to work for change. We close our eyes to our privilege, because the truth is uncomfortable. We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering to avoid identifying with their pain. Forgive us for failing to be your Church in the world. Guide us from the depths of our wilderness into your light.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG**In the Cross of Christ I Glory****Hymn 324**

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

WILDERNESS LITANY

God is in the water that restores our soul.

And God is in the night when we lose our way.

God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.

And God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.

So with confidence we declare—

If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

Let us worship the God of creation.

Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces.

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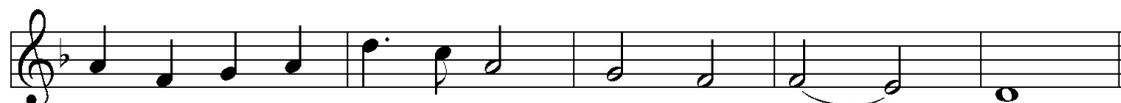
KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: G Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: G Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: G Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Psalm: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Gospel: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in

him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Healer of Our Every Ill

Hymn 612

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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CREED

With the Whole Church let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Assisting Minister) Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of healing, raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Bring leaders together to share ideas and resources to support and protect communities during this pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day. We pray for those on our continued care and recovery list and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts *(brief pause)*

Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to those who are sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, guide this assembly to support one another in this time of need. Help us to be creative in the way that we communicate, engage, and keep each other safe in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints, Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Pastor) According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

(Assisting Minister)

Holy and generous host,
you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

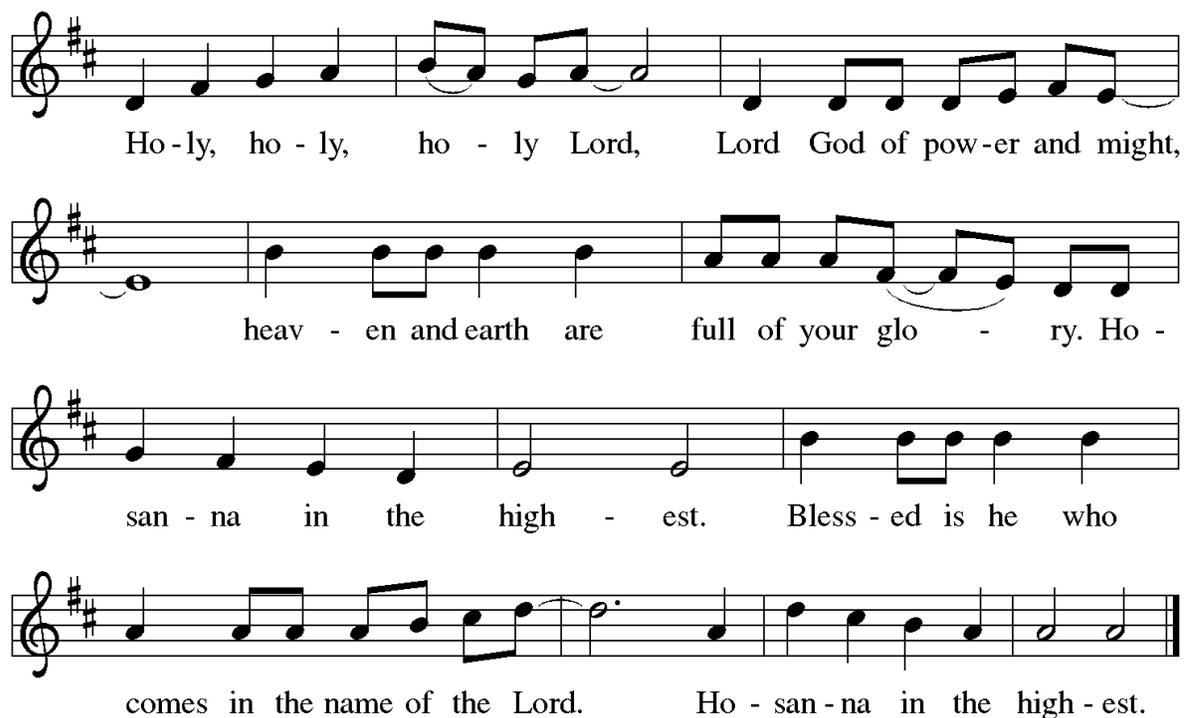
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,

that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
 we may come to the fullness of your grace.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

it begins with grace and ends with grace

because this road gets hard
 the road to redemption
 the road to resurrection
 is the road of uneven ground
 of roots that trip us
 and rocks that make us slip
 and fall and it is hard to get back up again to keep going.

it is everything we fear about the wilderness.

but here at the beginning
 we are met with grace.
 right when it is about to come crashing down

here is bread for the journey
and a cup for the way.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

this is grace.
the table that is spread for us
in the middle of the wilderness
the reminder that our job is not to suffer
but to love one another.
our call is not to loneliness
but connection
our fate is not death but life.

so come to this table as we
journey together in the wilderness.

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LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

(Pastor) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(Assisting Minister)

We thank you, living God,
for the body and blood of your Son,
which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.

As Christ has loved us in this feast,
so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.

In Jesus' name we pray **.Amen.**

SENDING**HEALING PRAYER**

God of living water, bring healing to this world in these days of world-wide uncertainty. Be healing for those exposed to and affected by coronavirus. Be with the families and communities of those who are sick or have died. Be with the doctors, nurses, health care aides, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help and who put themselves at risk in so doing. Help us be prepared, but not anxious; aware, but not desperate, vigilant, but not in fear; faithful, but not careless. Be our hope, our faith, our love. Be our strength. Heal us. Heal us all.

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time.

Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,

✠ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG**We Come to You for Healing, Lord Hymn 617**

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

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DISMISSAL

Go in Peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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