

Worship Leadership Guide
Sunday in Lent - COVID-19 Isolation
Planting New Seeds
March 29nd, 2020

Prelude: For the Beauty of the Earth, arr. DF

Welcome

Good Morning! ----- Welcome to Morgan Park Presbyterian Church as we experience Lent through isolation. Welcome to my home and this holy experimentation as we try to worship together as a church without being in person. We are a congregation committed to Christ, Diversity and Mission.

Intro to online worship:

1. Call in by zoom: Dial by phone (audio only): +1 312 626 6799 Then type Meeting ID: 210 508 481
 - a. I will mute you during portions of the service without group participation. This is so that you can make loud noises during my sermon without anyone finding out :) If you have the ability to mute your phone on your end, please try that to help keep down on audio feedback.
2. Join by zoom app or website by clicking here:
<https://zoom.us/j/210508481>
 - a. You will have the ability to mute your voice and your picture. We would love to see your face, but please stay on mute unless you have something to share, as this will cut down on feedback.
 - b. If you scroll right on your screen or find the view... button, you should be able to see more than one person at a time.
 - c. I will share music and prayers on zoom for all to follow along. You do not need a bulletin.
 - d. If you called in by phone, I don't have a way to share the music and prayers.
3. If you're joining me on fb live, I encourage you to participate in the comments so we can see each other and participate communally. You'll be able to go back and view the video again if you come in late and want to watch from the beginning. There may be people coming in later and may be confused, so let's all help each other out. Plus, I appreciate your feedback so I can better know how to respond to your needs. We're trying to put together meaningful worship for you

all and your feedback is helpful.

4. You can follow along on the Worship Guide Google Doc that you can open in any internet browser. The worship guide is posted as a link on facebook, in a church-wide email, and on our website. In the document is all our prayers and song lyrics as well as my sermon for you to follow along if that helps.

Please join me in calling Each Other to Worship!

The Call to Worship (responsively)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

From the intimate spaces of our homes

Let us experience God's grace!

From Midlothian to Jackson Park

Let us worship in unity!

From Mount Greenwood to Roseland

Let us love one another.

From deep in our hearts

Let us rejoice and sing!

Please join in singing our Welcoming Hymn, "We are Called". The music is printed in the worship guide and will come up on the zoom screen.

Welcoming Hymn We Are Called #2172

1. Come! live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice,

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

3. Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!

Prayer of The Day

Please pray with me:

In this ordinary place, may your word of life be heard in all its extraordinary power and truth;

May the seeking find welcome among us and in your waters of renewal and grace;

May the hungry of heart be nourished at your table and equipped to serve the world;

And may lives be changed, making the life of the world ever new;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please join in singing our Hymn of Praise, "Grace Alone" the words are typed into the worship guide and on the zoom screen.

Hymn of Praise

Grace Alone #2162

Every promise we can make

Every prayer and step of faith

Every difference we can make

Is only by His grace

Every mountain we will climb

Every ray of hope we shine

Every blessing left behind

Is only by His grace

Grace alone Which God supplies

Strength unknown He will provide

Christ in us, our cornerstone

We will go forth in grace alone

Every soul we long to reach

Every heart we hope to teach

Everywhere we share His peace

Is only by His grace

Every loving word we say

Every tear we wipe away

Every sorrow turned to praise
Is only by His grace

Call to Confession

Please be seated.

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God's overflowing grace, let us confess our sin, first silently, and then together.

Prayer of Confession

Please pray with me.

God of Grace, We know you have healed all of creation, and yet we often refuse to participate in your healing when you call on us. In this moment of global crisis, forgive our fears and prepare our hearts to serve in your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news of God's grace:

Though we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Once we were lost and dead—now Christ has become our life and salvation.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Response "Glory Be to the Father" #579

Announcements

Goodmorning! My name is pastor Ben.

Let's take a moment to check out what is new in our announcements:

- COVID-19 Plans
 - Thank you for adjusting with us to this strange and hazardous reality that we find ourselves in today. We will continue our conference call worship service as long as it takes to keep our hospitals running. This means that our normal Easter Traditions will be simplified into one 10:30am Worship Service.

The Worship Committee will be working next month to plan a special celebration for the day when we finally do have in person worship again, but we won't try to name that date quite yet.

- Like this video to sign in to worship on facebook. If you are on zoom, we will have a record of your presence.
- You can find our bulletin online at MorganParkPres.org/health
- And please type in your community prayers in the comments or send an email to pastor Ben.
- Next Sunday is Palm Sunday:
 - Bring / create a palm (or pick up at church)
 - Bring your own communion elements (bread and drink)
- Easter homework:
 - Send your sunrise pictures to benheimachsnipes@gmail.com
 - It could be a drawing or a photo from an important sunrise in your life. We will show these images as we enter worship on Easter Sunday.
- Children's Sunday School on Saturday's at 11:30am!
- After the sermon we will bless our seeds for our Garden Ministry. We can all share what we have at that time. If you would like to learn how to start your own seedlings indoors, please watch Jim Kubajak's "how to" video that is linked in my email from Thursday and posted on Facebook.
- Are there other announcements anyone can share this morning?
- Now let us return to worship.

Passing of the Peace

A reading of Peace from Psalm 104:10-15

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;

they flow between the hills,

giving drink to every wild animal;

the wild asses quench their thirst.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;

they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains;

the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,

and plants for people to use,

to bring forth food from the earth,
 and wine to gladden the human heart,
 oil to make the face shine,
 and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

What is a word that brings you peace today?

Children's Sermon Planting Seeds of Hope

Invitation to God's Word Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

Prayer of Illumination

Living God, through the reading of the Scriptures and by the power of your Spirit, may we find connection with you, our God of Grace. Amen..

Scripture Lessons

Our Epistle reading for this morning is Romans 8:6-11. Hear now the Word of the Lord.

Hebrew Bible Reading

Romans 8:6-11

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit[a] is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who

raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.**

Let us Pray. God of love and wholeness, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of each of our hearts be acceptable to you - our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,[a] “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus[b] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” 11 After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am

going there to awaken him.” 12 The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin,[c] said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus[d] had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles[e] 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.[f] 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,[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

Jesus Weeps

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?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

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.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Choir Anthem All Things Bright and Beautiful

Each choir member will sing a verse from his/her home.

Planting Seeds of Hope

Our Garden Team has invited you to join them in preparing our Share the Harvest Gardens this season. Today we will say a blessing for each aspect of our garden - the natural and the crafted. If you have garden elements with you, now is the time to get them out! If you have a camera, please make sure it is on so you can show everyone what you brought. This could be recycled yogurt containers, or peat pots or shovels or seed trays, but most importantly soil and water and seeds.

If you want to join our garden ministry, please send me a message or reach out to Leah Chibe or Connie Leininger. I invite Leah and Jim Kubajak to lead our blessing.

Prayer for Seeds (hold seed aloft):

Leah Chibe: If you have brought seeds or bulbs, hold them at this time.

Creating God, you have given seed for the sower. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds and bulbs which are sown in hope. May they bring forth bountiful fruit and beauty. Amen.

Prayer for the Soil (hold soil aloft):

Leah Chibe: Giver of life, thank you for soil in which nature awakens new life. Thank you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-ploughed field. Help us to be good stewards of the land. Amen,

Prayer for Water and Rain (hold water aloft):

Leah Chibe: Sustaining God, thank you for water. Thank you for the way it cools the earth, and hydrates the land. Thank you for the smell of the earth after the rain has fallen. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed, so that crops and gardens may flourish. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing on tools and gardeners' hands (hold gloves & trowel aloft):

Jim Kubajak: If you have brought gloves or garden tools, hold them at this time.

Working God, thank you for our hands and the tools we use to till the soil, to plant the seeds and bulbs, to weed our gardens and allotments. May our efforts be to your glory – providing food for the hungry, beauty for our souls, and gardens of calm in our busy world. Amen.

Prayer for Gardening:

Jim Kubajak: Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessings fall upon our seeds and bulbs, our hands and tools, our soil, our potted plants, our gardens, and our allotments and our coconuts. Bless our labour with rain and sunshine, that new life might spring up, that we might be truly at one with the integrity of all creation. Convict us as stewards of your magnificent garden to cry out when it is being abused and misused, to stand firm in our conviction to be your appointed custodians. This we pray as your humble servants and stewards of this amazing planet. Amen.

Offering our Tithes and gifts to God

All that we have is a gift from God.
 In faith and gratitude,
 we return now a portion
 of what we have so abundantly received,
 as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

Online Giving demonstration.

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,
 we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
 but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—
 for your call on our lives,
 your guidance in the baptismal journey,
 and for blessing us
 that we may be a blessing to others.
 Accept what we bring
 for your own good purposes.
 In Christ we pray. Amen.

Prayer of the People

...Now, pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us!...Our father, who art
 in heaven...

Lords 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,
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.

Closing Hymn

Christ Service #343

Hymn for Streamed Worship / Called as Partners in

In our homes, we meet to worship,
 far away from sacred space.
 By the Spirit, Christ is with us,
 making this a holy place.
 In these days of social distance,
 we are called to meet apart.
 Still we pray for one another,
 hold each other in our heart.

If this time indeed is holy,
 we must keep it truly so.
 Even in our isolation,
 God's rich blessings overflow.
 We avoid the world's distractions,
 set our minds on things above:
 Patience, kindness, goodness, mercy,
 faith, joy, peace, abiding love.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission
 In a small or global sense
 Help us bear each other's burdens
 Breaking down each wall or fence
 Words of comfort words of vision
 Words of challenge said with care
 Bring new power and strength for action
 Make us colleagues free and fair

So God grant us for tomorrow
 Ways to order human life
 That surround each person's sorrow
 With a calm that conquers strife
 Make us partners in our living
 Our compassion to increase
 Messengers of faith thus giving
 Hope and confidence and peace

Charge

Pastor Ben

Postlude

