

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

**April 26th, 2020**

**10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

*Please include prayer requests in the chat and comments.*

*Please also mute your microphone and turn off your video for the worship service.*

**A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP**

Who is the Holy Spirit?

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 116

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

3 The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**4 Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

**6 The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.**

7 Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

**8 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

9 I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

**10 I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";**

11 I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar."

**12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?**

13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

**14 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.**

15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

**16 O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.**

17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

**18 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,**

**19 in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

As we gather together in the spirit of worship, we ask, Lord, that you would bind us together in your love. May we grow, as your body, in worship, prayer and service to the world. As we worship today, may we live worthy of the calling we have received as your church.

## **HYMN #139 “Come Thou Almighty King”**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

We come to the Mercy Seat not because we deserve a hearing. Nor that we can somehow justify ourselves before the One who has created all things. We come because we are called by the Holy Spirit to repent, confess and return to walking in the light of God.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**God of apostles and prophets, of loving mothers and faithful fathers, Your promises to us are great and sure. Yet we reject your good gifts offered to us through Jesus of Nazareth, and sealed by his resurrection. We have sought instead to satisfy our desires with our own resources.**

**Forgive our ingratitude and stubborn self-will; by your Spirit help us to trust your promises, that we may cast ourselves into your good hands, living in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.**

(A time for silent and personal prayer...)

During this time of silence take a piece of paper and write down one or two areas of your life that you would like the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth about. Pray over what you have written during this week.

## **DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

There is no better proof that our sins are forgiven, our trespasses are forgotten and our debts are paid than the words of our Savior as he died on the cross, “It is finished.” Gone is what holds us back from a genuine, lifegiving and authentic relationship with God. Alleluia and Amen!

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Your word, O Lord, is a treasure to our souls, a light to our feet and a food to our spirit. Feed us, guide us and enrich us with what you have to tell us today. Amen.

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** 1 Peter 1:17-23

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. 18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20 He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21 Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth[a] so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply[b] from the heart.[c] 23 You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.[d]

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Holy City**  
**Steve Sutton**

**GOSPEL LESSON:** John 15:17-27

17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The World's Hatred

18 "If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If you belonged to the world,[a] the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'Servants[b] are not greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. 21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.'

26 "When the Advocate[c] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. 27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

**SERMON**

"The Spirit of Truth"

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**HYMN** #313 Come Down, Love Divine

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From the Heidelberg Catechism

**Q & A 53**

Q. What do you believe concerning “the Holy Spirit”?

**A. First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.**

**Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Friend of sinners, of the outcast and comforter of the lonely, we pray that you would comfort us. Starved for connection, would you draw us closer to you? Will you fill our silence with your still small voice? Will you fill our emptiness with your presence? Will fill our hearts with your love? We thank you because we know that you hem us in on our right and our left. You go before us and you are our vanguard behind us. Remind us how well we are cared for.**

**Lord of Lords, we humbly ask that you would grant the leader of our world wisdom and courage as they make decisions regard the corona virus and all of the other pressing issues surround it. Wisdom that they might use every sound bit of science and every practical piece of common sense to maintain health and safety and to build trust and confidence. And Courage to make hard decisions that may be expensive and frustrating, but uphold the values of the common good and the flourishing of everyone, young and old.**

**Good Shepherd, we pray that you might guide us through this invisible pestilence. We take precautions, yet it seems that there is so much that we do not know about covid 19. Protect us, even as we wash our hands and keep distance from people. Give us strength to not give into anxious fear, but to trust in your providence and in practical health measures. We pray for those who have to face this disease as they make their living and as they seek to serve others. We pray for service workers, health professionals and social workers. Lord, give us courage.**

**King of Kings, you own the cattle on a thousand hills, you provide everything that we subsist on. We pray for those who have lost their livelihood due to this virus crisis. Provide for them Lord, through the work of the church and through the kindness of neighbors. Fill them up, so their cup runs over.**

**We pray for the witness of your Church. We pray that FFPC might be a community of love and care that reaches beyond ourselves to express your love in service and concern. We pray for other churches as they serve the needs before them. We pray for St. Jude’s, the Freedom Center, the Fenton Center of House, for Carriage Town, for Family Promise and other ministries who are on the spiritual and physical front lines of this crisis. May your church glorify you, Lord, as they seek to serve the world.**

**We especially lift up those who are in need of your care:**

**Creator God, let us not forget to rejoice that each day is new and you have made it. We especially rejoice in the birth of Rose Marie to Andrew and Tonia Swarthout. Thank you for the gift of life!**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN** #314 Like the Murmur of the Dove Song

## OFFERING

Let's close our worship by giving our gifts to the Lord!

Please remember FFPC in your giving. You can give online, through your own bank or through our website ([www,ffpc.org](http://www.ffpc.org)). You can also mail any gifts, pledges or donations to the Church Office, 503 South Leroy, Fenton, Michigan 48430.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**In all places and in all times, we have reason to thank you for your goodness. There is nothing that we have that you have not provided and there is nothing that we lack that you will not sustain us therein. We express our gratitude by giving our offerings to your ministries, by loving your church, and by seeking to serve our neighbor. Bless us in our efforts to extend and proclaim your Kingdom. Amen.**

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**Now to him, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.**

**May this crucified one, This resurrected one, This glorified one, Grant you the power to comprehend The breadth, length, height and depth of The love of God.**

**Amen.**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

*Please turn on your video and wave to your family in Christ!*