

5th Sunday of Easter May 10th, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies

1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

2 **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.**

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

4 **take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.**

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

16 **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, In You, we sleep and in You we wake. In You we work and in You we rest and play. In You we eat and in You we fast. You are the source and the reason for all we do, all day and every day. May Your name be praised.

Alleluia.

HYMN #438

“Purple Hymnal Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

CALL TO CONFESSION: Palm 141

1. I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you.
2. Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.
8. But my eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.

Let us lift our voices together in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Loving God, We confess that we have been more concerned to preserve ourselves than to trust your promises to be our fortress and deliverer. We gladly receive the gifts of Christ’s body broken and blood shed for us; yet we stubbornly resist living in the way to which he calls us.

Hear our confession and in mercy forgive us. Help us by your Spirit to lay down our lives for Christ’s sake, and for the sake of the gospel--Knowing that whether we live, or whether we die, we belong to you, and that you will reward all who diligently seek you.

LAMENT

You are invited to write down in a journal or a piece of paper things that you are mourning over or lamenting. These could be personal, national, or global. We think especially of those suffering from COVID 19 and isolation; for the victims of gun violence; for those suffering from abuse.

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

Why, Lord, must evil seem to get its way? We confess that our sin is deeply shameful; but the wicked are openly scornful—they mock your name and laugh at our dismay.
We know your providential love holds true: nothing can curse us endlessly with sorrow. Transform, dear Lord, this damage into good; show us your glory, hidden by this evil.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

When we say that God is our deliverer we say that, in Christ, our sins are removed and we no longer stand in condemnation, but are justified in the sight of God. When we say that God is our fortress we say that God is faithful to protect us in this life and faithful to call us into life eternal.

We also say that God delivers us from sin into a fortress of mercy. God protects us from the condemnation of our past by way of the grace and mercy shown through Christ. We are new creations! Let us celebrate the new things the Spirit is doing in us and live to glorify God!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We struggle and strive to know You better. We want to live more like Jesus showed us. We want to restore that covenant relationship with you. We have Your word. We read and meditate on Your word. It becomes food and life to us. Teach us O God from Your word, to become what you want us to be.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Peter 2:2-10 (NRSV)

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation-³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built[a] into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him[b]
will not be put to shame.”

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ **But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,[c] in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.** ¹⁰ **Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy**

SPECIAL MUSIC

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Titus 3:3-7

³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water[a] of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

SERMON “Born of the Spirit”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #280 Amazing Grace

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From the Heidelberg Catechism

Q 57. How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you?

A. Not only will my soul be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but also my very flesh will be raised by the power of Christ, reunited with my soul, and made like Christ’s glorious body.

Q 58. How does the article concerning “life everlasting” comfort you?

A. Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We come before you Lord, a people buffeted by fear.

We react out of this fear. We are suspicious of our government, of our leaders, our neighbors, of our family and friends.

We speak negatively. We rebel and disobey. In our efforts to avoid this fear we even hurt, wound and kill.

We cannot face our fear because we are certain that if we were to turn to our fear and walk through it, we would have to do it alone.

But you Lord, you say something different, Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care.

Remember all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery: Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions: Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace: Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord hear our prayer for those close to us: We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

And in Jesus' name we pray the prayer the He taught us saying...

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 #547 Purple Hymnal

"Go, My Children With My Blessing"

OFFERING

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

We do not give to God because he needs it - everything belongs to him. We give to God's work to help others and to help ourselves learn generosity. We give to God's work as just one way that we meet our obligation to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

The work of FFPC goes on even in these very strange times.

Please remember FFPC in your giving. You can give online, through your own bank or through our website (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

Sovereign Lord, look with favor upon the gifts of your church. Bless those that give to your work, in time, talent and treasure, and bless these gifts that they may find effective use in Your Kingdom.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May you be filled with the Holy Spirit. May Jesus Christ hold your heart, giving you confidence and pointing your face to heaven. May you look upon your enemies, your frustrations, your foes and say, Lord, do not hold this sin against them.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.