

Wednesday Evening Worship
July 15, 2020

GATHERING HYMN: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

251

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!

You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.

**Now every land and every age this blessing shall proclaim-
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.**

To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.

With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.

The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;

The hungry fed with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.

To Is-ra-el, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;

the promise to our parents made their children will secure.

**Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God by all adored.**

DIALOGUE

Psalm 103:1-5a

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and forget not all God's benefits

who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases;

who redeems your life from the grave

and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

who satisfies your desires with good things.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray.

Thank you, Creator, for all forms of governments and leaders around the world.

Lead them as they determine how best to govern in these uncertain times.

Let this be a time of care, not fear.

Unite them and us in this time where we are seeing that borders mean nothing.

Form their leadership and decision-making with mercy, compassion, and wisdom.

Please be with all of the emergency responders, doctors and nurses, and others whose service is essential.

We are grateful for all those who stock the shelves at the grocery store and help keep things as normal as possible.

Cover all those who are risking their own health to save others.

Protect them physically and emotionally.

Guide their hands and give them wisdom.

Protect their families as they spend extended time away from home.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

READING: Mark 5: 21 – 42

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." ²⁴So Jesus went with him.

And a large crowd followed Jesus and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³²Jesus looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he

had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY:

Pastor Jim Parham

HYMN: When Pain of the World Surrounds Us

The hymn is on the next page.

A DIALOGUE OF REMEMBRANCE

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

When Pain of the World Surrounds Us 704



1 When pain of the world sur - rounds us with dark-ness and de -
 2 We see with . . fear and trem - bling our ach - ing world in
 3 The church is a ho - ly ves - sel the liv - ing wa - ters
 4 We praise you . . for our jour - ney and your a - bun-dant



spair, when search - ing just con - founds us with
 need, con - fess - ing to each oth - er our
 fill to nour - ish all the peo - ple, God's
 grace, your sav - ing word that guid - ed a



false hopes ev - 'ry - where, when lives are starved for mean - ing and
 waste - ful - ness and greed. May we with stead - fast car - ing the
 pur - pose to ful - fill. May we with hum - ble cour - age be
 strug - gling hu - man race. O God, with all cre - a - tion, your



des - ti - ny is bare, we are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 hun - gry chil - dren feed. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 o - pen to God's will. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 fu - ture we em - brace. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and



let God's heal - ing flow through us.
 let God's jus - tice flow through us.
 let God's Spir - it flow through us.
 let God's chang - es flow through us.

Turn back to page 3 for the Dialogue of Remembrance.

PRAYERS DURING TIMES OF COVID-19

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:

When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;

when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern;

when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down,
God;

help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands;

help us to be socially connected, when we have to be physically distant;

help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For the doctors, we pray, for the nurses, we pray,

for the technicians and the janitors and the aides and the caregivers, we pray,

for the researchers and theorists, the epidemiologists and investigators, for those who are sick,
and those who are grieving, we pray,

for all who are affected, all around the world...we pray for safety, for health, for wholeness.

May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked and house those without
homes; may we walk with those who feel they are alone,

and may we do all that we can to heal the sick—in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God, that we might help each other.

In the love of the Creator,

in the name of the Healer,

in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all, we pray.

May it be so.

Food for Thought

With the beckoning and dawning of another day, can the fragile, yet extraordinary words of
Jesus propel us to a wider awareness, a gentler compassion?

To the rediscovery of the sacred in ourselves and in our world.

To that risk-taking place where we are free to be aware?

To a different journey in a listening companionship with these prophets of our time—the
wounded and weary who, amazingly, announce the Kingdom and carry in their stories
the seeds of the morrow?

The 'hidden ones' whose joy and pain when threaded through our lives enlarges the heart and brings new meaning to God's story.

The God whose light still shines, and who tenderly invites us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Remembering Others

O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help; By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Let us pray for all whose pain and misery comes to us every day in the newspapers, on the television, and face to face.

for the millions who are starving to death,
we pray to the Lord.

for those who are without adequate shelter,
we pray to the Lord.

for those who lack clothing,
we pray to the Lord.

for those whose human rights are ignored,
we pray to the Lord.

for all who suffer from illness,
we pray to the Lord.

for refugees who have had to flee from their lands,
we pray to the Lord.

for all who are chronically hungry,
we pray to the Lord.

for greater action on our part to feed the hungry,
we pray to the Lord.

for all who have to live with injustice,

we pray to the Lord.

for those who have seldom known peace,

we pray to the Lord.

for all who have lost hope,

we pray to the Lord.

for those who harden their hearts against the poor,

we pray to the Lord.

for all who work to eliminate world hunger,

we pray to the Lord.

for the unity of the human family.

we pray to the Lord.

May your mercy be on all of us, Lord, as we seek your healing and strength as we search for better ways to serve your people. Give us insight, sensitivity, creativity, strength and courage as we seek together ways to end hunger and injustice in the world.

Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty and merciful God, bless, preserve and keep us, this night and forevermore.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

The prayers and dialogues for this service are from "Prayers for families affected by the coronavirus" published by Canadian Foodgrains Bank: A Christian Response to Hunger (<https://foodgrainsbank.ca>). The full text of the service can be found at: <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Prayers-for-families-affected-by-the-coronavirus.pdf>.

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